

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID

Level 4 Certificate of Higher Education

Skills for the Workplace (Health and Social Care)

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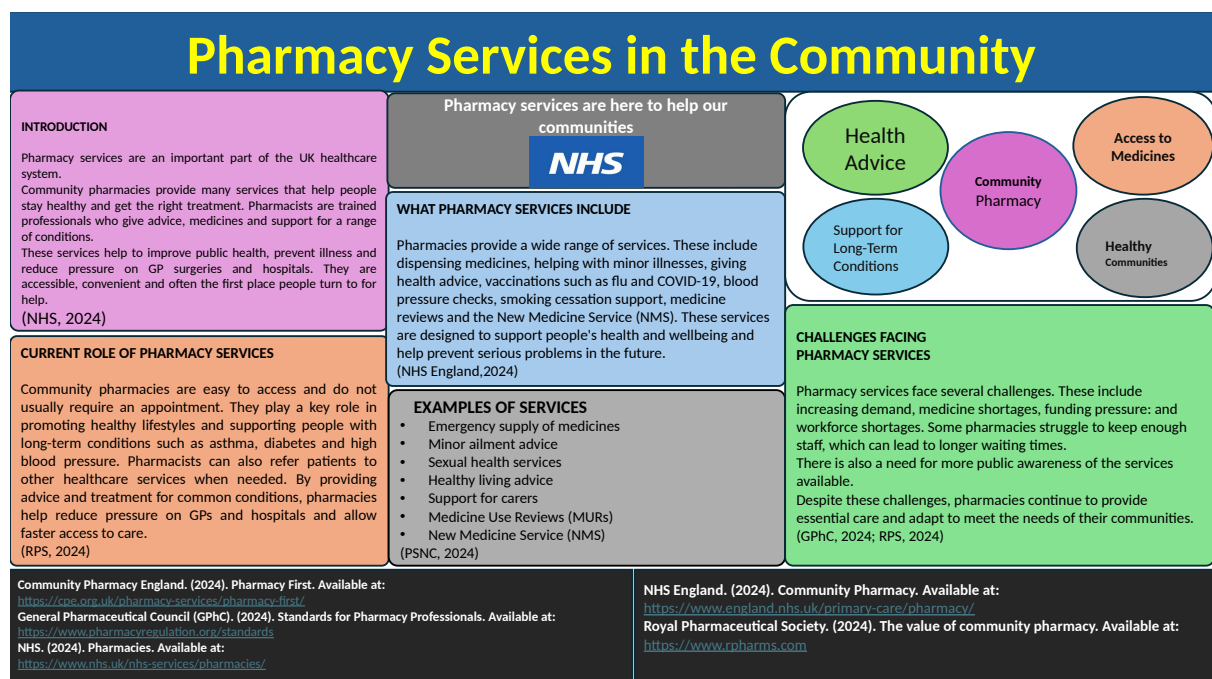
Task 1 – Pharmacy Services in the Community (Poster)

Task 2 – Community Disability Services (Essay)

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Task 1

Pharmacy Services in the Community (Poster)



Task 2

Community Disability Services

Introduction

Community Disability Services are an important part of the UK health and social care system. They provide support for children and adults with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, sensory impairments, and long-term health conditions. The main aim of these services is to help people live as independently as possible while improving their health, wellbeing, and quality of life. They also provide advice and support for families and carers and work closely with healthcare professionals, local authorities, schools, and voluntary organisations (**NHS, 2024**).

Origins and Historical Development

In the past, many people with disabilities were cared for in large institutions or hospitals, where they had limited independence and few opportunities to participate in society. During the second half of the twentieth century, attitudes towards disability gradually changed. The focus moved from institutional care to community-based support. The introduction of community care policies encouraged people to live in their own homes with appropriate assistance rather than in residential institutions. The Care Act 2014 further strengthened this approach by promoting person-centred care, independence, dignity, and equal access to services (**Care Act, 2014**).

How the Service Functions Today

Today, Community Disability Services provide a wide range of support depending on each individual's needs. Services may include occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, nursing support, psychological support, specialist equipment, home adaptations, and advice for families (**NHS England, 2024**).

Many people also receive help with education, employment, daily living skills, and social activities. These services are delivered by multidisciplinary teams, including doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers, psychologists, and support workers. Professionals work together to develop personalised care plans that focus on each person's strengths, goals, and individual needs (**NICE, 2023**).

Although Community Disability Services provide valuable support, they also face several challenges. Increasing demand, staff shortages, limited funding, and long waiting lists can delay access to important services. In some areas, specialist support is easier to access than in others, creating inequalities across different communities. Despite these difficulties, Community Disability Services continue to play an essential role in helping people remain independent and active members of society (**Department of Health and Social Care, 2024**).

Importance for Quality of Life

Community Disability Services make a significant contribution to improving the quality of life of service users. They support independence by helping people develop practical skills and manage everyday activities safely. They also improve physical and mental wellbeing by providing rehabilitation, therapy, and emotional support (**NHS, 2024**).

Another important benefit is social inclusion. Many people with disabilities experience barriers to education, employment, and community participation. Community Disability Services help reduce these barriers by providing appropriate support, advice, and access to local resources. Families and carers also benefit because they receive guidance, training, and emotional support, helping them manage caring responsibilities more effectively (NICE, 2023).

Overall, these services allow people with disabilities to have greater choice, control, and confidence in their daily lives.

Conclusion

Community Disability Services have developed from institutional care into modern community-based support that promotes independence, dignity, and inclusion. Today they provide a wide range of services through multidisciplinary teams working together to meet individual needs. Although challenges such as funding pressures, workforce shortages, and increasing demand remain, these services continue to improve the quality of life for many people across the UK. Continued investment and effective partnership working will be essential to ensure Community Disability Services remain accessible and effective in the future.

References (Harvard)

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