



ALL-PARTY PHARMACY GROUP

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Chair: Dr Howard Stoate MP

Vice Chair: Baroness Cumberlege CBE DL

Treasurer: Sandra Gidley MP

Secretary: Mark Todd MP

All-Party Pharmacy Group to set out policy priorities ahead of General Election

- Group to hold consultation meeting to debate 'Policy Action Plan' on Tuesday 2nd March in the House of Commons

The All-Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) has announced that it will be launching a list of pharmacy related policies that Government must prioritise following the General Election. The 'Policy Action Plan' is designed to encourage the next administration to make the most of community pharmacy, and enable the profession to fulfil its potential as a provider of primary care.

The APPG has invited stakeholders from across the health community to attend a consultation meeting in the House of Commons in March, to discuss which issues should be included in the 'Policy Action Plan'. Key points raised in the meeting will be form the basis of the plan, which will then be launched in the following weeks.

The APPG has outlined in the invitation areas that will be debated during the course of the meeting, and has asked those invited to come armed with ideas on the steps that need to be taken to maximise the effectiveness of pharmacy in the NHS.

Dr Howard Stoate MP, Chair of the APPG said: 'The role of community pharmacy – and recognition of its role in primary care and public health - has come on leaps and bounds over recent years, and there is a consensus across the political divide that pharmacy should play a greater role in healthcare. However a great deal remains to be done to help pharmacy realise its potential'.

'With a General Election only months away, we are concerned that the next Government, whatever its political complexion, keeps its foot on the pedal in the development of community pharmacy , and capitalises on the profession's capability. To help with this we are going to be launching a set of policy priorities, which should be acted on after the General Election. We are determined that stakeholders get a chance to contribute to this document, and will be holding a fully interactive meeting in March, where our invited audience will be able to put forward ideas for us to consider'.

Notes to editors

The All-Party Pharmacy Group public meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd March 2010 at 4pm in Committee Room 16 in the House of Commons.

Areas likely to be discussed during the meeting include:

- **NHS local and national commissioning arrangements**
- **Pharmacy input at PCT board/committee level**
- **Public awareness of the growing range of pharmacy services**
- **Targets for implementation of new pharmacy services**
- **Improved collaboration and information sharing between pharmacists, GPs and other health professionals.**
- **Using NHS information technology more effectively**
- **Managing long term conditions: Sustainable funding and rewards for quality & outcomes**

For more information, or to attend this meeting please contact Toby Pellew or Natalie Bateman on 0207 618 9100.

About the APPG

The All-Party Pharmacy Group was formed in December 1999 to raise awareness of the profession of pharmacy, and to promote pharmacists' current and potential contribution to the health of the nation.

The group receives financial support from the Company Chemists' Association, the National Pharmacy Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. It receives administrative assistance from Luther Pendragon.

Further information about the All-Party Pharmacy Group is available on the Group's website www.appg.org.uk