



# ALL-PARTY PHARMACY GROUP

[WWW.APPG.ORG.UK](http://WWW.APPG.ORG.UK)

*Chair: Dr Howard Stoate MP*  
*Vice Chair: Baroness Cumberlege CBE DL*  
*Treasurer: Sandra Gidley MP*  
*Secretary: Mark Todd MP*

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## **Leading MPs launch Policy Action Plan for the next Government**

- The next Government needs to capitalise on pharmacy's capability to help tackle the NHS quality and productivity challenge
- APPG's Policy Action Plan outlines 12 calls for action that will help make this happen

**25 March:** The All-Party Pharmacy Group has launched a Policy Action Plan of patient focused, pharmacy related actions which the next Government must prioritise in its first 100 days of power, to capitalise on the profession's capability to help the NHS drive up quality and deliver efficiency.

The Group has seen a consensus across the board that pharmacists could and should play a more central role in primary and secondary healthcare. Ahead of the General Election, the Group's Officers have developed 12 calls to action, which are realistic, achievable and will make a real difference to patients and the NHS. The calls for change include: consistent local and national commissioning arrangements, pharmacy representation at PCT board level, comprehensive plans to tackle shortages in the medicine supply chain, incentives to improve medicine waste and adherence, and effective access to pharmacy services for patients.

The Policy Action Plan was launched by the Group's Officers, outside the Department of Health in Whitehall.

Dr Howard Stoate MP, Chair of the All-Party Pharmacy Group, said:

"The recognition of pharmacy's capability and expertise in primary care and public health has really grown in recent years. All the main political parties agree that pharmacy must play a pivotal role in delivering extra frontline NHS services in the years ahead. The ideas are all there, and the profession is ready to increase its role. So its up to the incoming government to get on with it. Our policy action plan shows how to make a real difference in a hundred days. We want to see all the parties sign up to it."

Baroness Cumberlege, Vice Chair of the All-Party Pharmacy Group, said:

“These are realistic and achievable proposals that will make a real difference to patients and the NHS. Community pharmacy has so much to offer in the NHS, and can deliver real value as well as innovative solutions to major challenges in public health. The Group will continue to monitor and review the new Government’s progress in line the recommendations in our policy action plan. ”

Sandra Gidley MP, Treasurer of the All-Party Pharmacy Group, said:

“The Pharmacy White Paper is now two years old, and I for one am impatient to see quicker progress in delivering the ideas in it that we all support. Community pharmacy can tackle so many major challenges in healthcare, from the scandal of wasted medicines to the fight against obesity. There is extraordinary political consensus around developing pharmacy so the next government has no excuse – it must push ahead with maximising the role of pharmacy and our policy action plan is designed to provide it with a clear focus.”

**-ENDS-**

The Policy Action Plan consists of 12 calls to action:

- Consistent NHS local and national commissioning arrangements
- Greater public awareness of the growing range of pharmacy services
- Pharmacy input at PCT board/committee level
- Targets for implementation of new pharmacy services
- Improved collaboration and information sharing between pharmacists, GPs and other health professionals
- More effective use of NHS information technology
- Sustainable funding and rewards for quality & outcomes
- Tackle shortages in the medicines supply chain
- Improve medicines waste and adherence
- Effective access to pharmacy services for all patients
- Regular progress reports by APPG, HSC and DH
- Improved access to NHS Information for pharmacy

The Policy Action Plan was drawn up following public consultation - the Group held a meeting for parliamentarians and stakeholders from across the health community to discuss issues that could be included. Notes from the meeting can be found on the APPG website: [www.appg.org.uk](http://www.appg.org.uk)

A copy of the Policy Action Plan is available upon request. 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](http://www.appg.org.uk)