



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

Leading health officials set out next steps for Pharmacy White Paper at APPG meeting

05 May 2009: A panel of MPs heard about the progress made in implementing the proposals set out in the Government's 2008 Pharmacy White Paper, at a meeting of the All-Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) on Tuesday 28th April in the House of Commons.

Representatives from the Department of Health, NHS Employers, and the pharmacy profession, gave an overview on what progress has been made since the White Paper's publication, and which proposals are to be prioritised in the immediate future.

Near to 100 people attended the meeting, and were given the opportunity to ask about what changes community pharmacists can expect to see over the coming 12 months.

Howard Stoate MP, Chair of the APPG said,

'It has been a year since the Government set out its plans for the pharmacy profession, and this meeting was extremely useful in understanding what progress has been made in that time. Clearly the foundations have now been laid, although many of the developments are not yet visible to grass-roots pharmacists'.

'Ultimately community pharmacy wants to see a speedy roll out of the White Paper proposals, particularly new services such as minor ailments and managing long term-conditions. I was however encouraged to hear about some of the many developments the profession can expect to see over coming year'.

Sandra Gidley MP, Treasurer of the APPG said,

'We have now seen that there is real collaboration between those tasked with delivering the White Paper proposals. However pharmacists and patients on the ground are yet to experience any real benefits. Workforce pressures, a lack of harmonised accreditation and inconsistent commissioning are just some of the problems that pharmacists face on a daily basis. While it was encouraging to hear commitment from the DH to tackle these problems, the APPG will continue its work in ensuring the White Paper proposals are acted on'.

-ENDS-

Notes to editor

The All-Party Pharmacy Group meeting took place at 14.15 on Tuesday 28th April 2009 in Committee Room 6 in the Palace of Westminster. Dr Howard Stoate MP chaired the meeting, along with Sandra Gidley MP in her capacity as officer of the APPG

Speakers included:

Felicity Cox - Chair of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework Negotiating Team, NHS Employers

Jonathan Mason - National Clinical Director for Primary Care and Community Pharmacy in England, Department of Health

Jeannette Howe - Head of Pharmacy, Department of Health

Martin Stephens - National Clinical Director for Hospital Pharmacy, Department of Health

Sue Sharpe - Chief Executive, PSNC

Howard Duff – Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Neal Patel – National Pharmacy Association

Stephen Fishwick – National Pharmacy Association

For more information, please contact Toby Pellew or Natalie Bateman at Luther Pendragon 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.