

All Party Parliamentary Group for Parkinson's Disease
4 p.m., 8th October 2008, Room 4 a, House of Lords

1. Welcome:

Baroness Gale welcomed members of the APPG

2. Attendees and Apologies:

Attendees:

Baroness Gale, Anne Milton MP, Viscount Allenby of Megiddo, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, Jeremy Browne MP, Mark Hunter MP, Baroness Shephard of Northwold, Russell Brown MP, Madeleine Moon MP, Tim Boswell MP, Lord Walton of Detchant, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, Baroness Masham of Ilton, Lord Cobbold.

Emily Cogbill, Clare Moonan, Anjuli Veall – Parkinson's Disease Society – in attendance.

Apologies:

Celia Barlow MP, Lord Clement-Jones, Paul Burstow MP, Sir Patrick Cormack MP, David Evennett MP, Andrew George MP, Baroness Greengross, Dr Evan Harris MP, Lord Harrison, Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots, Earl Howe, Baroness Howe of Idlicote, Lord Hunt of Wirral, Sally Keeble MP, David Lepper MP, Andy Reed MP, Eddie O'Hara MP, Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, John Smith MP, Baroness Wilkins, Jeremy Wright MP, Baroness Greenfield, Mike Penning MP, Adam Afriyie MP, Dr Vincent Cable MP, Peter Luff MP, Sandra Gidley MP, Dr Brian Iddon MP, Sir Nicholas Winterton MP, Baroness Howells of St David's.

3. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

5. Update on membership, voting in of Officers:

The following elections took place:

- Anne Milton MP¹
- Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville²

6. Future work-plan for the APPG, including inquiry into access to Parkinson's services:

Emily Cogbill provided an update on plans for the inquiry into access to services for people with Parkinson's; including the main aims of the inquiry, and a proposed timeline for future work.

Members were invited to comment on the proposed Terms of Reference, timeline and planning for the inquiry.

¹ Anne Milton MP was appointed Vice-Chair

² Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville was appointed Secretary

Following a recommendation from an Officer, the PDS has been in contact with a former House of Lords Committee Clerk regarding possible involvement as an adviser on the inquiry.

7. Planning the Inquiry (timeline, themes, evidence sessions)

Discussion covered the following points: timescale of the inquiry, issues to be covered by the terms of reference for the inquiry, whether the inquiry should cover England only or devolved Administrations as well, engaging with relevant external stakeholders (such as the Royal Colleges and other clinician groups), appropriate levers for change at a national policy level.

Staff from the PDS highlighted the capacity the organisation has to undertake the necessary research. It was indicated that some of the initial research has recently been undertaken by PDS regional teams.

The Group agreed the following:

- The proposed timescale as follows: deadline for written evidence (Jan 2009), oral evidence sessions in Feb/March 2009, final report summer 2009.
- To consider the amended terms of reference for the inquiry as follows: "The inquiry will examine the national and local barriers to effective implementation of NICE Guidelines and other Government standards including the National Service Framework for Long term conditions. The inquiry will cover England, Wales and Northern Ireland."
- To seek to find eight members of the Group who would be committed to hearing oral evidence sessions (six members to participate in the sessions and two members to take part should unforeseen circumstances result in one of the original six being unable to attend).

Action: the PDS as Secretariat to the Group to circulate revised terms of reference and draft call for evidence for the inquiry prior to finalisation by the Group. The PDS will also circulate a request to members of the Group calling for expressions of interest in taking part in the panel hearing Oral Evidence.

8. Dates of future meetings:

It was agreed to hold a full APPG members meeting in January after the deadline for written evidence, to update members on the progress of the inquiry.

9. Any other business:

There was no other business.