

**All Party Parliamentary Group for Parkinson's Disease
Officers' Only Meeting
4.15 p.m., 9 July, Room A, 1 Abbey Gardens, Great College Street**

1. Welcome:

Baroness Gale welcomed members of Parkinson's Disease Society.

2. Attendees and Apologies:

Attendees:

Baroness Gale

Val Buxton, Emily Cogbill, Clare Moonan, Anjuli Veall – Parkinson's Disease Society.

Apologies:

Apologies for the meeting were noted for Madeleine Moon MP, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff and Mark Hunter MP.

3. Update on Membership and Officer Positions (compliance with rules for setting up an APPG):

- It was noted that all necessary application forms for the registration of an APPG had been sent off and a receipt of these had been received through Baroness Gale's office. The Group is now listed on the 'Register of All-Party Groups' and on the 'Approved List of All-Party Parliamentary Groups and Associate Parliamentary Groups'
- An updated list of members was circulated.
- Baroness Gale referred to the need to find an Officer for the Group from the Conservative benches to enhance cross party representativeness. The PDS provided an update on efforts to date on this front.

4. 'The PDS Members Survey' – Taking forward the issues discussed in the inaugural meeting in a Parliamentary setting:

Baroness Gale referred to the 'Options for Future Work Areas' paper circulated, and the possibility of holding an inquiry into inequity of access to services for people with Parkinson's disease and their carers.

A discussion took place around the aims and objectives for holding an inquiry, possible timescales and the work involved.

It was agreed that were an inquiry to take place:

- There should be a reception to launch the inquiry (possibly mid November).
- The Secretary of State for Health would be invited to speak at the reception.
- There would be a public invitation to make written submissions and key stakeholders would be targeted. The closing date for written submissions would be approximately early-mid January.
- Two or Three Oral Evidence sessions would be needed (perhaps taking place in March 2009).

- Following the collation of written evidence, there would be an opportunity for the Group to discuss potential oral evidence witnesses and panel Members for the sessions.
- Depending on the nature of the Oral evidence being given, Oral Evidence sessions would be held as public meetings
- If the Group decides to go ahead with an inquiry, the PDS in its role as providing the Secretariat to the Group would draft a full plan for the work to be undertaken.

Action: Officers of the APPG for Parkinson's disease are invited to provide comments on the proposal to hold an inquiry.

It was agreed to hold a full APPG members meeting following the Summer recess to update the Group on the work planned in the year ahead. Choice of speaker would be determined later in the Summer.

5. Any Other Business:

- Anjuli Veall provided an update on the work of the Neurological Alliance coalition (of which the Parkinson's Disease Society is a member). The Neurological Alliance is looking into the possibility of working with parliamentarians to establish a joint Neurological All Party Parliamentary Group. As an initial step, it has been proposed to hold a joint meeting of existing neurological APPGs (on MS, Parkinson's disease, Epilepsy etc) in the Autumn (September/October). The focus of the meeting will be agreed later in the Summer.

Action: Officers of the APPG for Parkinson's disease are invited to comment on this proposal.

Baroness Gale felt that joint meetings should come later once the group has been well established.

6. Future Meetings:

To be confirmed shortly.