



**Secretariat**

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**Chair**

Debbie Abrahams MP

**APPG Health in All Policies: Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting  
Wednesday 1 July 2015, 1500-1530  
Portcullis House, Room U**

**Present**

Debbie Abrahams MP (Oldham and Saddleworth) (DA) Chair  
Lord Hunt of Wirral (Ld.H), Vice-Chair  
Lord Howarth, (Ld.Hw), Vice-Chair  
Lord Low (Ld.L), Vice-Chair  
Jeremy Lefroy MP (Stafford) (JL) Vice-Chair  
Liz McInnes MP (Heywood and Middleton) (LM) Secretary  
Lord Rea (Ld.R)  
Valerie Vaz MP (Walsall South) (VV)  
Catherine West MP (Hornsey and Wood Green) (CW)  
Grahame Morris MP (Easington) (GM)  
Barbara Keeley MP (Worsley and Eccles South) (BK)  
Luciana Berger MP, Shadow Minister for Public Health (Liverpool Wavertree) (LB)  
John Woodcock MP (Barrow and Furness) (Parliamentary Assistant) (JW)  
Steve McCabe MP (Birmingham, Selly Oak) (Parliamentary Assistant) (SM)  
Chi Onwurah MP (Newcastle upon Tyne Central) (Parliamentary Assistant) (CO)

**Secretariat**

Professor Simon Capewell, Vice-President, UK Faculty of Public Health (SC)  
Mark Weiss, Senior Policy Officer, UK Faculty of Public Health (MW)

**Apologies received**

Lady Victoria Borwick MP (Kensington); Sir Peter Bottomly MP (Worthing West); Flick Drummand MP (Portsmouth South); Kate Osamor MP (Edmonton); Dr Philippa Whitford (Central Ayrshire); Baroness Chalker; Lord Darzi; Baroness Hayman; Lord Hunt; Bishop James; Baroness Jay; Baroness Jolly; Lord Jones of Cheltenham; Lord Simon; Baroness Stern; Baroness Thornton; Karin Smyth MP; David Tredinnick MP; Tom Tugendhat MBE MP; Baroness Lister; Lord Rennard; Baroness Wall; Virendra Sharma MP; Roger Mullin MP; Sir David Amess MP; Jo Churchill MP

**1. Welcome by Debbie Abrahams MP**

DA thanked colleagues for attending this inaugural meeting of the APPG on Health in All Policies, and recalled that the APPG is focused on exploring the determinants of health and how they impact on health inequalities.

## 2. Election of Officers

SC took over from DA for the election of the APPG Chair, further to which he handed back to DA for the election of Officers, which was concluded as follows:

Chair: Debbie Abrahams MP  
Vice Chair: Lord Howarth  
Vice Chair: Lord Hunt  
Vice Chair: Lord Low  
Vice Chair: Jeremy Lefroy MP  
Secretary: Liz McInnes MP

## 3. Future work programme for the APPG on Health in All Policies

DA recalled the previous meeting of the APPG, a one off inquiry held in January 2015, at which Professor Sir Michael Marmot (<http://bit.ly/1FXGzJe>) presented evidence on progress towards the development of a more equal (or unequal) society, with an emphasis on the impact of austerity on health inequalities.

Further to this, DA asked colleagues whether they would like to put forward any proposals for an inquiry that the APPG might undertake during the next year. Members discussed the following issues:

### Child poverty

DA drew attention to the Secretary of State for Work and Pension's statement, presented in Parliament on 1 July (<http://bit.ly/1GMTbnq>), in which he set out the Government's intention to replace the existing definition and measurement of child poverty (as set out within the Child Poverty Act 2010 <http://bit.ly/1AeyVJF>).

As the Government's strategy becomes clearer, DA suggested that the impact of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill on child poverty as a possible line of inquiry for the APPG to take forward. Members agreed that this would be a valuable area to address and welcomed a future inquiry.

### The future of advice and legal support on social welfare issues

Ld.L updated colleagues on his work as the Chair, since 2012, of a body tasked with developing a strategy for the future of advice and legal support on social welfare issues further to cuts to legal aid. As part of that work, Ld.L has overseen the publication of three reports – the latest of which, *The Role of Advice Services in Health Outcomes*, addresses the interconnections between the availability of good advice services and better health outcomes, particularly mental health outcomes, and reviews the evidence of 140 studies (<http://bit.ly/1T9JGqW>).

Ld.L offered to present the findings to the APPG. DA welcomed this as a pre-inquiry session that might help shape the direction of the APPG's work, and which could be organised quickly. Ld.L reiterated the importance of addressing child poverty, and assessing the many accounts that exist in relation to the measurement of child poverty. BK thanked Ld.L for this important report. GM observed that Ld.L's work and child poverty are not mutually exclusive, but related, and that the APPG could address both as part of its programme.

### Impact of social media

JL spoke of a recent conversation he had had with a CAMHS nurse, in which he was apprised of the damaging impacts of mobile devices on young people, ranging from seclusion and isolation (using a device on ones own), with one impact the decrease in levels of physical activity. While use of mobile devices has been associated with some unexpected results, e.g. decreasing alcoholism and crime, it has also been associated with bullying and insecurity.

BK echoed JL's observations, and noted a bullying case in her local constituency in which a child had been withdrawn from school entirely as a consequence of the impact of social media. BK also drew attention to a meeting with the

Girl Guides and Women's Aid, at which one of the key speakers described the impact of social media on the confidence of school children's mental health. DA widened the discussion to the national policy context and suggested that another inquiry could examine the impact of media policy, on social media use and health.

JL spoke of a clear link between this and the way in which Professor Marmot discusses sport, noting the importance of ensuring that the funding of sporting activities continues and for the Olympic legacy and encouragement of involvement in sporting activity to be kept alive – one way of tackling the isolation that social media can result in.

### **Patient experience of the NHS**

CW drew attention to a piece of work that she has been driving forwards in her constituency (Hornsey and Wood Green), with the support and expertise of Professor Marmot's team, relating to people's experience of the health service. Hornsey and Wood Green, CW reflected, have a steep gradient in wealth and poverty.

CW offered to update colleagues on the findings in spring 2016, and stressed the importance of health as a national priority in the context of much local reorganisation. The report will deliver a useful evidence base to employ if service changes are unhelpful. Members welcomed this work.

### **Physical Activity**

BK, Chair of the APPG for Women in Sport and Fitness (<http://bit.ly/1ep2kMg>), drew attention to work undertaken by the Health Select Committee in 2014 on inactivity, and to her experience within her own constituency, Worsley and Eccles South, which is failing to reach national levels of activity, with a variety of poor health outcomes linked to this. One ward, BK noted, exhibits high levels of cancer and another high levels of cardiac disease. BK reflected on a recent parliamentary debate on declining levels of activity following the 2012 Olympics (<http://bit.ly/1GUoE7d>).

BK noted with disquiet that there are today 212,000 fewer women taking part in any sport or activity than was the case in 2012, and, in light of this downward trend, welcomed any focus that the APPG might make on inactivity as a health issue. BK identified departmental 'silo working' as a factor inhibiting uptake of physical activity, and stressed that 'health in all' is the right approach.

### **APPG on Food and Health**

Ld.R drew attention to the All Party Parliamentary Food and Health Forum (<http://www.fhf.org.uk/>), which, until recently he Chaired. He noted that the APPG has monthly meetings at which topical subjects are discussed, usually with a speaker from each side of the spectrum. That APPG, while not necessarily lobbying nonetheless has influence. In autumn the APPG will discuss the recent paper by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine which critically examined the effectiveness of the Public Health Responsibility Deal (<http://bit.ly/1LHPW7h>).

### **Emergency Preparedness – Global Pandemic**

JL drew attention to one further subject, further to comments by the President of the World Bank (WB), Jim Yong Kim, who recently stressed the importance of emergency preparedness to mitigate as best as possible the impact of a potential global pandemic, which will have devastating consequences – highlighted by the recent impact of Ebola (<http://on.ft.com/1LYSpbi>). The WB President estimated that such a crisis might impact negatively on the GDP of any country by 10-15%. JL stressed the importance of prevention and dealing with it when it happens.

### **Health Impact Assessment**

SC recalled that when he and DA worked within the same department, Dr Alex Scott Samuel, (Senior Clinical Lecturer in Public Health, University of Liverpool), had undertaken work on the importance of health impact assessment, which, SC affirmed, is at the heart of a health in all policies approach. At previous APPG meetings, SC noted, DA had discussed whether health impact assessment (HIA) might be an appropriate approach for the APPG to use.

DA agreed that HIA is a very important mechanism, and one that the APPG would in its work, especially as its use is one of the recommendations of the Marmot Review report (<http://bit.ly/1hs5CeE>). DA affirmed that if we are serious about tackling inequalities we should have the process of health impact assessment adopted if we are developing policy.

DA suggested that the APPG could take an HIA approach to collecting and analysing evidence of the distributional impact on different population groups in its work.

### **APPG Liaison and strategic use of resources**

Lord Howarth suggested that it would be helpful if all APPGs with overlapping areas of interest have a good system of mutual liaison and do not duplicate each other's work. Ld.H drew attention to his work as Co-Chair of the APPG on Arts, Health and Wellbeing (<http://bit.ly/1GUproO>). The APPG is to undertake an inquiry, 'Arts and Health 2020', that will seek to establish what a policy for arts and health should look like.

There are other overlapping groups, e.g. the APPG on Wellbeing Economics (<http://bit.ly/1uLbj8r>), on Mindfulness (<http://bit.ly/1lyjRh9>), and the APPG on Prisons (<http://bit.ly/1FXJ8Lq>), Chaired by Lord Ramsbotham, who is very interested in the question of prisons and health policy. The APPG might wish to liaise with him. Ld.L also noted the APPG for Drug Policy Reform (<http://bit.ly/1R9fZJ6>) Co-Chaired by Baroness Meacher and Caroline Lucas MP.

Members agreed with Ld.H on the importance of ensuring that the various overlapping themes of APPGs are mapped out. Ld.H noted that there is an issue of maintaining a critical mass for each APPG's work, and that exchanging membership lists, notifying each other of respective meetings and exchanging papers, would offer a helpful solution and allow for greater partnership working and alliances between APPGs. DA agreed to pick this up.

### **Secretariat**

DA introduced the secretariat for the APPG, the UK Faculty of Public Health (<http://www.fph.org.uk/>), and welcomed SC and MW to the meeting.

SC thanked DA, and updated members that he is the Vice-President of the UK Faculty of Public Health and Professor of Public Health at the University of Liverpool. SC welcomed the work of the APPG and offered FPH's full and strong support in assisting with the APPG's work moving forwards.

MW echoed this, and noted that he has been FPH's Senior Policy Officer for the past four years, and that his interest in public health was sparked through studying his Masters in Law, which had a focus on health. MW had also spent time working in organisations with a focus on illicit drug policy.

## **4. Next steps**

DA summarised the following action points:

- 1) The next meeting of the APPG will be a pre-inquiry session at which the APPG will receive a presentation on the recent report prepared by Lord Low, *the Role of Advice Services in Health Outcomes* (<http://bit.ly/1T9JGqW>)
  - Lord Low agreed that his team would send through all relevant materials and suggest possible dates
- 2) DA will contact all APPG's that have been listed to apprise them of the APPG's programme of work, how respective APPGs can link in, and help ensure respective resources are used carefully
- 3) Members agreed for the APPG's work to start with an inquiry into the impacts of the 2015 welfare reform on child poverty and in turn on child health. Following that, the APPG will explore the impact of media policy on social media use and the impact on mental health.

DA thanked colleagues for their time and support, and mentioned that she would be in touch with dates for future meetings of the APPG.