

APPG on Obesity Meeting

Wednesday 31st January, 1:30-3pm, Room O, Portcullis House

Attendees

- Mary Glendon MP
- Baroness Jenkin
- Professor Paul Gately, Leeds Beckett University
- James Kingsland OBE,
- Sarah LeBrocq, All About Obesity
- Jennifer Dennington, Johnson & Johnson
- Sarah Clothier, Slimming World
- Lysette Mazur, Slimming World
- Megan White, Slimming World

Agenda

- 1:30-1:40pm - Welcome and introductions
- 1:40-1:45pm - Set the scene for discussion and provide background for the Strategic Framework
- 1:45-2:00pm - Discussion on the above
- 2:00-2:15pm - Priorities within public health and healthy environments
- 2:15-2:30pm - What role can the APPG play on reducing stigma?
- 2:30-2:45pm - Priorities for Local Government and NHS weight management
- 2:45pm - Summary and thanks - meeting ends

Summary and Key Points

The aim of this meeting was to bring everyone together in agreement on the APPG's aims and objectives, listen to the priorities of experts in the Group and decide how these can be embedded into the APPG's plan.

Current plans for how we structure the APPG are:

1. Prevention
2. Treatment

Mary Glendon MP noted that it is the responsibility of the APPG this year to apply and maintain Parliamentary pressure. It was highlighted that further engagement with Parliamentarians from the Lords may be most useful, as this seems to be where the greatest interest lies.

Baroness Jenkin highlighted that whilst the Government may have retracted on its obesity policy, the Labour Party have not yet confirmed their obesity strategy either.

Baroness Jenkin outlined a new special inquiry in the House of Lords on Diet, Obesity and Ultra Processed Foods, which she is sitting on and is being chaired by another Officer of the APPG. There will be a call for evidence as part of this inquiry, and Baroness Jenkin requested that all attendees respond, and that the Group to develop a joint response.

The APPG agreed to deliver in Parliament through:

- Debates
- Parliamentary oral and written questions
- Drop-in sessions on key issues related to the work programme
- Development and distribution of a briefing that sets out the APPG's position on key issues

Many attendees emphasised the multifaceted nature of obesity, and that there are so many different strands that this prevents progress.

The group agreed to handpick key issues to achieve and deliver on.

Mary Glendon MP agreed, but emphasised that the person and personal must be kept a part of the message, as removing the person can make the issue political, and take away the personal. One way that the APPG can achieve this is to make people feel more comfortable to raise obesity as an issue with their local politicians and in the public domain.

Topics for prioritisation as part of the work programme, for consideration were:

- Inequalities/access to treatment
- Cost/economics
- Prevention

The Group's ask was agreed to focus around implementation and evaluation, to understand what obesity strategies work, how, why and where.

It was agreed that there are many treatment options available to people, but that they are not always available or implemented evenly across the country.

Additionally, it was discussed the APPG should examine the impact that mechanisms such as NICE guidance have in practice.

Mary outlined the Group's objectives moving forward as:

1. Getting more MPs discussing obesity in Parliament, partly through coming together as an APPG to listen and engage MPs through events, debates.
2. A progress review and involvement ahead of the General Election with manifestos

For more information

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