**All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Obesity Inquiry – Oral Evidence Session**

Wednesday 21st October, 10.00am-11.30am

**About the inquiry**

The aim of this inquiry is to develop actions which support and maximise the implementation of the Government’s national obesity strategy for adults and children.

The APPG was pleased with the progress made in the Government’s obesity strategy published in July, and the Group is keen to be a constructive partner with the Government and NHS as the strategy is implemented and built on in the future. With the aim of supporting the Government and NHS’ ongoing work on obesity, the APPG launched this inquiry seeking insights on the implementation of the Government’s strategy, how it could be built on in the future, and seeking solutions to support the expansion of the full range of NHS weight management services.

The inquiry is being carried out through a call for written evidence and corresponding online survey, and an oral evidence session.

This oral evidence session provides the opportunity to hear from experts in public health, NHS weight management, Government policy and people with lived experience of obesity to discuss these issues.

*This inquiry and evidence session have been developed by the secretariat of the APPG on Obesity and finalised with the officers of the APPG. The secretariat of the APPG on Obesity is funded by financial support provided by Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic and Novo Nordisk. These companies have no influence over the work of the secretariat of the APPG on Obesity and they have had no influence on the arrangements or agenda for this meeting. The agenda for this meeting will be developed by the secretariat of the APPG on Obesity and approved by the officers of the APPG. Further details of the APPG can be found on the* [*APPG register*](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmallparty/200701/obesity.htm) *and on the* [*Obesity APPG website*](https://obesityappg.com/)*.*

**Parliamentarians attending:**

**Mary Glindon MP**

**Baroness Walmsley**

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington**

**Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe**

**Rosie Cooper MP**

**Agenda**

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| **10.00 - 10.05** | Introductions - **Mary Glindon MP, Chair, APPG on Obesity** |
| **10.05 – 10.45** | Panel 1 - **The Government's strategy next steps, implementation, addressing gaps and building on successes**  Speakers:   * Professor Sir Michael Marmot, The UCL Institute of Health Equity * Mr Ashley McDougall, National Audit Office * Mr Andrew Radford, Beat Eating Disorders |
| **10.45 – 10.50** | Introductions – **Baroness Walmsley, Co-Chair, APPG on Obesity** |
| **10.50 – 11.30** | Panel 2 - **How should weight management services be expanded and delivered in the future?**  Speakers:   * Professor David Kerrigan, BOMSS * Professor John Wilding, University of Liverpool * Ms Jackie Lackenby, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust |

**Panel 1**:

**The Government's strategy next steps, implementation, addressing gaps and building on successes**

Chair: Mary Glindon MP, Chair, APPG on Obesity

Speakers:

* Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director, The UCL Institute of Health Equity
* Mr Ashley McDougall, Director, Local services value for money studies, National Audit Office
* Mr Andrew Radford, CEO, Beat Eating Disorders

The focus of the first session is to assess the Government’s recently published obesity strategy, looking at next steps and implementation. The session will review how the proposals made in the strategy can be implemented quickly and at scale, how these can be built on in the future, and what are the areas which were not covered in the Government’s strategy which should be addressed in the future.

Discussion topics:

* What is your assessment of the Government’s obesity strategy, its likely effect on obesity rates, and its effects on people living with the condition? How can we better the plan?
* Does the ambition set out in the Government’s strategy match the scale of the problem caused by obesity in the UK? If not, what are your recommendations for doing so?
* In your view, were there any considerations or policies the Government’s strategy did not include? If so, what were these and how can these be brought forward?
* How can the Government’s strategy include opportunities to address health inequalities?
* How can funding be best allocated to best support the Government’s proposals and to improve obesity prevention and treatment?
* What needs to happen next to ensure the proposals made are implemented at pace and scale? Who, in your mind, should be held accountable and how will we ensure that milestones are being met?

Additional questions for consideration:

* How should the effect of the proposals made in the Government’s strategy be measured?
* Apart from providing funding, what support can central Government provide to local health and care systems to prevent and treat obesity in their local population?
* What are the long term barriers to improving outcomes in obesity which need to be addressed?

**Panel 2**:

**How should weight management services be expanded and delivered in the future?**

Chair: Baroness Walmsley, Co-Chair, APPG on Obesity

Speakers:

* Professor David Kerrigan, President, British Obesity & Metabolic Surgery Society
* Professor John Wilding, Professor of Medicine, University of Liverpool & President, World Obesity Federation
* Ms Jackie Lackenby, Community Staff Nurse, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

The Government’s obesity strategy made a commitment to work with the NHS to expand weight management services, with more detail to be announced on this later this year. This session will seek insights on how weight management services could be expanded and what the provision of weight management services could look like in the future.

Discussion topics:

* How successful have weight management services been in adapting throughout the lockdown, and in restarting following the lockdown?
* What learnings and successes should be taken from this in the future? What examples of best practice are you aware of?
* If the Government is expanding weight management services, what should this expansion consist of, how should it be funded and who should be accountable for making the expansion happen?
* What are the barriers to the expansion of all available weight management services and treatment options, and how can these barriers be overcome?
* How might COVID-19 change the way weight management services are delivered in the future?

Additional questions for consideration:

* How do the funding structures for weight management services affect service provision? What should funding structures look like in the future in light of the financial impact of COVID-19 and changes in reimbursement mechanisms in the NHS?
* What would the ideal weight management pathway look like? How can this be implemented across the country?
* What role will digital have in the provision of weight management services in the future?
* What would the patient’s journey through the ideal weight management pathway look like?
* How can Integrated Care Systems maximise weight management to ensure improved outcomes in obesity across their whole population?

**About the APPG on Obesity**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Obesity is a group of cross-party members of the House of Commons and House of Lords which is currently calling for the Government to prioritise and drive increased investment and resource into both the prevention and treatment of obesity.

Policy Objectives:

* Generate a public policy environment where it is recognised by politicians and the NHS that obesity needs to be prioritised and weight management services, covering prevention and treatment, are funded sufficiently.
* Create a call for joined up commissioning that addresses all aspects of obesity and creates a comprehensive pathway that delivers value for money; from prevention through to high quality care and treatment.
* Increase the effectiveness of obesity prevention and facilitate a living environment where healthy choices are encouraged through engagement across the whole health system – from food and drink in retail, work places and schools, encouraging active lifestyles and weight management support.
* Change the way the NHS views, manages and treats obesity, making use of advances in digital innovations and incorporating associated issues such as mental health.
* Build Parliamentary advocates to support the implementation and objectives of the NHS Long Term Plan.

Officers of the APPG:

1. Mary Glindon MP – Chair
2. The Baroness Walmsley - Co-Chair
3. The Baroness Jenkin of Kennington – Vice-Chair
4. Dr James Davies MP – Vice-Chair
5. The Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe – Vice-Chair
6. Jim Shannon MP – Vice-Chair

**Contact**

If you have any questions about this briefing or require any further information please contact the APPG’s secretariat, Tom Doughty, at [tom.doughty@mailpbconsulting.com](mailto:tom.doughty@mailpbconsulting.com) or call 07852266830.