**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Obesity**

**Inaugural Strategic Council Meeting**

*Tuesday 23rd July 2019, 10.00-11.30*

*Room R, Portcullis House*

**Background**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Obesity is working towards a new approach to tackling obesity through prevention and treatment. The group’s 2017 inquiry and 2018 report found that there are a broad spectrum of issues relating to the prevention and treatment of obesity that must be addressed in order to find sustainable solutions.

The APPG on Obesity has established a strategic council to help to focus the work undertaken by the APPG, as well as offering advice and guidance around the ongoing work of the group.

The strategic council will help to devise an overall strategy for the APPG and will delegate Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) to develop and deliver individual work streams. Following the agreements of the strategic council to set the direction of work, a number of Task and Finish Groups (TFG) will be created to help drive forward individual work streams. These TFGs would be overseen by the strategic council. Organisation and oversight of strategic council meetings will be coordinated by the APPG’s secretariat, PB Consulting.

This meeting is designed for the strategic council to discuss and agree areas of focus for the APPG and what the APPG should look to achieve in the upcoming year. It will seek agreement on an overall strategy, how to achieve the report recommendations, and which TFGs should be set up.

**Meeting Agenda**

10.00: **Welcome from Andrew Selous MP**, Co-Chair of the APPG on Obesity

10.05: **Introductions from Council members**

10.10: **Overview from APPG Secretariat**

10.15: **Discussion around possible areas of focus**. Council members should consider in advance actions and projects that Task and Finish Groups could undertake which will lead to recommendations to MPs, the Government and the NHS, and which will help the APPG to influence decision makers to improve the prevention and treatment of obesity. This should be based on where council members currently think there are gaps in both the prevention and treatment of obesity. Council members should also consider who would be well placed to sit on Task and Finish Groups on particular issues.

Where possible these actions should tie in to ongoing work in Government and the NHS, such as the implementation of the Long Term Plan. Council members should also consider how their particular area of expertise can tie in to the overarching strategy of the APPG and compliment the areas of expertise of other council members.

* How can the APPG drive forward its recommendations?
* What TFGs should be convened?
* Which stakeholders should be involved?
* What objectives and KPIs can be set and within what timeframes?

11.15 **Agreement of actions and next steps**

11.30 **Meeting ends**

**Report Recommendations**

The report recommendations have and will provide a direction of focus for the work of the group moving forward. They are:

* **A national obesity strategy for both adult and childhood obesity** should be developed and implemented by the Government, with input from key stakeholders. This should look to strengthen existing services and replicate best practice across the country.
* **Obesity/weight management training** should be introduced into medical school syllabuses to ensure GPs and other healthcare practitioners feel able and comfortable to raise and discuss a person’s weight, without any stigma or discrimination.
* The Government should implement **a 9pm watershed on advertising of food and drinks high in fat, sugar and salt** to protect children during family viewing time.
* The Government should lead or support efforts by the clinical community **to investigate whether obesity should be classified as a disease in the UK**, and what this would mean for the NHS and other services.
* The Government should **commission or support the development of a thorough, peer-reviewed cost benefit analysis** of earlier intervention and treatment of people with obesity.

**Council Member Attendees**

* Patrick McGinley, Head of Costing and SLR, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
* Susannah Howard, ICS Programme Director, Suffolk & North East Essex ICS
* Chris McEwan, Deputy Mayor of Darlington, Darlington Borough Council
* Dr. Abd Tahrani, NIHR Clinician Scientist, University of Birmingham
* Professor James Kingsland OBE, President, National Association of Primary Care
* Dr Adrian Brown, NIHR Lecturer & Research Fellow in Nutrition & Dietetics, Imperial College London
* Flora Nicholson, Executive Director, Obesity Empowerment Network
* Professor John Wass, Professor of Endocrinology, University of Oxford
* Nadya Isack, Patient Advocate, Obesity Empowerment Network
* Professor Paul Gately, Professor of Exercise and Obesity, Leeds Beckett University

**Apologies from the following council members:**

* Caroline Cerny, Alliance Lead, Obesity Health Alliance
* Professor Harry Rutter, Professor of Global Public Health, University of Bath
* Sarah Le Brocq, Director, Obesity UK
* Shaw Somers, Specialist Upper Gastrointestinal and Bariatric Surgeon, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
* Dr Rishi Caleyachetty, Assistant Professor, Warwick Medical School
* Dr Emma Frew, Professor in Health Economics, University of Birmingham