**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Obesity**

**Strategic council membership – roles and responsibilities**

Context

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) 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 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.

Joining the strategic council

The APPG on Obesity is now inviting applications to sit on the group’s newly-established strategic council. The council will help to set the direction of work undertaken by the APPG, as well as offering advice and guidance around ongoing work of the group.

Underneath the council, 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.

What would being on the council involve?

* Commitment to strategic council is, in the first instance, for the 2019-2020 APPG work programme. After which time, you may need to reapply for the post.
* Offering advice and support to the APPG’s officers and secretariat.
* Being a proactive and committed member of the council – agreeing to meet a minimum of two times per calendar year at a location in the Palace of Westminster.
* Being an active contributor to email discussions and ad hoc conference calls to discuss areas of interest of the APPG and track progress of the TFGs.
* Working collaboratively with other members of the council.
* Supporting the values of the APPG and the recommendations made in the 2018 report.
* Overseeing the work of Task and Finish Groups, ensuring projects make good progress, and reporting this back to the APPG.

Who should apply?

We are seeking those with an expertise and experience in all aspects affecting obesity, as well as those who have a strong desire to improve the prevention and treatment of obesity to join the council.

The APPG is looking for applicants to the strategic council with the following specialties and interests:

* Person living with obesity
* Public health
* Clinical psychology
* Endocrinology
* Bariatric Surgery
* General Practitioners
* Academics/researchers
* Commissioners
* Obesity service providers
* Nurses
* Economists
* Education

Candidates should have expertise/interest in at least one of the following areas:

* Science of obesity
* Costs of obesity
* Obesity prevention
* Obesity treatment
* Obesity stigma and mental health
* Education on the curriculum

What Happens Next

Successful applicants to the strategic council will be involved in setting the direction and overseeing the work carried out by Task and Finish Groups on behalf of the APPG.

Strategic council members will be required to attend meetings as and when required (at least 2 per year, plus ad hoc meetings when necessary). This is **not** a paid position but travel expenses to meetings will be available as and when necessary.

To apply for a position on the strategic council, please complete the application form attached with your name, job title, and a few words on why you would be well placed to join the council. Application forms should be sent to ObesityAPPG@mailpbconsulting.com. The APPG is accepting applications until **14th May 2019**.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application via email before the council launch on **18th May 2019**.

There are a limited number of membership places and we are expecting a high level of interest. All applications will be considered and members appointed based on their individual expertise, interest and experience. To ensure a variety of expertise within the council we will look to appoint from as many backgrounds and interests as possible.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact ObesityAPPG@mailpbconsulting.com.