



## ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON SOCIAL CARE

3– 4pm 10 October 2007

Committee Room 9, House of Commons

### Attendees

Joan Humble (chair)	MP
Jane Carlson	Social Care Institute for Excellence
Iris Steen	Social Care Institute for Excellence
Lisa Watch	General Social Care Council
David Stone	Mind
Haqeeq Bostan	National Centre for Independent Living
Julie Jones	Social Care Institute for Excellence
Caroline Bernard	Counsel and Care
Elizabeth McLennan	Help the Aged
Nick Johnson	Social Care Association
Owen Davies	General Social Care Council
John Wright	Leonard Cheshire
Keith Brumfitt	Children's Workforce Development Council
Colin Angel	United Kingdom Home Care Association
Martin Green	English Community Care Association
Baroness Wilkins	House of Lords
Baroness Campbell of Surbiton	House of Lords
Frank Sooden	Alcohol Concern
John Metcalfe	British Association of Social Workers
Kate Groucutt	Carers UK
Dan Murphy	Care and Health

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following APPG members:

Peter Bottomley	MP
Adam Holloway	MP
Paddy Tipping	MP
Madeline Moon	MP

Apologies were also received from the following non-APPG members:

Ann Milton	MP
Adam Afryie	MP
Nadra Ahmed	SCIE board member
Baroness Andrews	House of Lords
Jo Benton	MP
James Churchill	ArcUk
Phillip Dunne	MP

David Evernett	MP
Helen Goodman	MP
Stuart Jackson	MP
Ray Jones	University of Bath
Eleanor Laing	MP
Richard Taylor	MP
Ben Wallace	Mp
Jo Williams	MENCAP
Jenny Wilott	MP
Rob Wilson	MP
Jeremy Wright	MP

### 1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as accurate. There has been no further development re forthcoming changes to EU import tariffs increasing the price of assistive technology.

### 2. Presentation by Dame Denise Platt

Dame Denise Platt, chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) outlined the main themes from her report – the Status of Social Care – A review. A summary of the report and slides are attached in appendices 1 and 2.

### 3. Comments and questions

**Martin Green, ECCA:** Health and social care workforce need to be flexible. All resources should be used collectively to support improvements in outcomes across the system – both in health and social care.

**JH:** APPG report on implementing the White Paper called for joint training across health and social care.

**DP:** the bulk of the workforce is based within the independent sector – many of whom do not have professional skills or qualifications therefore there are some issues for this sector. Many staff working in the corporate sector leave to work in the public sector after they have been trained. Salaries and the status of social care plays a role in this. In Europe a high percentage of the social care workforce are graduates. As a result social workers will work in residential care. In the UK the workforce is very segmented. Opportunities for local improvement may help to unlock some funding for staff, plus job redesign may help to recruit and retain workforce.

**Dame Jane Campbell:** Will Centres for Independent Living have access to the Skills Academy? They are currently on a downward spiral and need support. People who use individual budgets and direct payments will also need skills to purchase their own services.

**DP:** DP wants to see places made available to people who use care services, and will track progress on this.

**John Metcalf, BASW:** Social care should be at the leading edge of change.

**DP:** Agreed that the sector as a whole should be assertive

**Keith Boston, NCIL Trustee:** The use of language in the debate is very important – we don't like the term 'vulnerable'. Many people who use services do not like formalisation. They like it to be flexible and work on our own terms. Also, Black and ethnic minority workers tend to be at the lower end of the sector, and under-represented at the higher end.

**DP:** Agreed that the term vulnerable should be avoided but people can be vulnerable by circumstances and systems. Some people do want structured care. Local authorities tend to have low levels of social care workers from Black and minority ethnic communities – but the provider sector has more representation.

#### 4. Discussion re workforce review

The Group considered the discussion paper and agreed to the outline plan for future meetings on workforce issues (see Appendix 3). SCIE to invite GSCC, CSCI, CWDC, Skills for Care and SCIE to prepare joint presentation for November meeting; and develop and issue proforma for written evidence.

Following agencies to be added to list:

GMB

Unite

NAAPS (National Association of Adult Placements)

Consideration to be given to how the workforce is funded and developed in European countries. There is no single model but Baroness Sally Greengross, chief executive of the International Longevity Centre may be a valuable contact.

#### 5. Date of next meeting

6.00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007