



## ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON SOCIAL CARE

PRESS RELEASE

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### MPs call for greater recognition of contribution made by social care workers

MPs have called on Government, its partners, providers and commissioners of care services to raise public awareness of the contribution made by care staff to well-being, and to support staff training and development.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Care has published its recommendations following its six-month inquiry into the key challenges facing the social care workforce in the future.

“Lack of public understanding of social work and social care is a major problem,” says APPG chair, Joan Humble MP. “We need to celebrate the massive contribution that care workers make to the well-being of individuals, families and the community. Government, employers and commissioners need to recognise the training implications of the major long-term changes required to deliver the Children’s Plan and transformation agenda for adults’ services and ensure the required resources are invested. Recent policy developments and plans for the Green Paper offer a real opportunity to harness the skills and energy of social care staff.”

The Group concludes that local authorities need to ensure that people who use services and their carers are actively involved in, and able to influence, local strategic needs assessment, commissining and workforce planning. Specifically, directors of adults services need to work with people using direct payments and individual budgets in order to identify and respond to new skills and training needs emerging from the introduction of self-directed support.

For further information or to arrange interviews with Joan Humble MP, Chair of the APPG on Social Care please contact: Iris Steen, Director of Communications, Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) [Iris.steen@scie.org.uk](mailto:Iris.steen@scie.org.uk) Tel 020 7089 7122. Out of hours 07885 736 643

## **Notes to editors**

An All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) is a grouping in Parliament composed of politicians from all political parties. APPGs include member of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They have no formal place in the legislature, but are an effective way of bringing together parliamentarians and interested parties. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) provides administrative support to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Care.

Over 20 organisations gave evidence to the inquiry. A copy of the report is available at <http://www.scie.org.uk/networks/appg.asp>. The inquiry focused on four questions:

1. What are the main problem areas for recruitment and retention, and how are they being tackled?
2. What steps are being taken locally and nationally to raise the status of the social care workforce, and what more could be done?
3. How are education, training, staff and management development being used to equip the workforce for changing needs and expectations?
4. How can people using services and carers have a greater say in the how the workforce is trained and deployed, and in its ways of working?