



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Primary Care and Public Health and Social Care

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MPs call for a shift of power from professionals to people using community health and social care services

One year on from the publication of the *White Paper, Our health, our care, our say*, MPs have called for a shift of power from health and social care professionals to people using their services, as part of changing the culture of services and practice.

The recommendations are published in a joint report by the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Social Care, and Primary Care and Public Health, and are based on evidence given by 36 health and social care organisations to a joint inquiry on implementing the White Paper on community services.

“Our society’s demographics are changing and we simply cannot afford to continue to provide care in the way we have in the past,” says Joan Humble MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Care. “Local authorities and Trusts should be required to publish their strategies, targets and results for effective user and carer participation in priority-setting and service development. There should be wider opportunities for pooled budgets, greater financial and decision-making delegation to front-line staff and people using services, schemes to combine statutory and community resources, and safeguards against cost-shunting.”

“Government should take further steps to promote maximum flexibility in the use of resources,” says Dr Howard Stoate MP, co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Care and Public Health. “The White Paper presents us with a real opportunity to redirect resources and to provide

transitional funding to create new primary care facilities, retrain staff and build confidence in restructuring among local communities before dramatically reconfiguring acute services. In order to coordinate care, the NHS computerised patient database should include health and social care information and be shared with health and social care agencies”.

The report also calls for increased support and respite provision for carers, asking Government to set a national standard for the level of support that should be available to carers, taking into account all the circumstances of the family.

The full report – *Report on joint inquiry on White Paper: Our health, our care, our say – a new direction for community services* - is available at <http://www.scie.org.uk/news/files/appg.pdf>.

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Notes to editors

The report focuses on funding, decision-making and integration of primary and social care services.

Other recommendations in the report include:

- There should be a national debate on funding of social care – the rationale for and impact of charging for domiciliary care should be rigorously re-examined.

- New money should be made available to tackle health inequalities and to train and develop the workforce.
- PCTs and social care agencies should use patient feedback to measure progress and set targets for improvement.
- NHS and local authorities should designate a lead professional to coordinate responses for each person with complex needs and/or requiring care from two or more services.
- Robust mechanisms should be available to ensure a smooth transition from children's services to adults services for those with complex needs

An All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) is a grouping in Parliament composed of politicians from all political parties. APPGs include members 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. The Proprietary Association of Great Britain (PAGB) provides administrative support to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Care and Public Health