



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Primary Care and Public Health

Terms of Reference

PRESS NOTICE

New Inquiry “Was the NHS Plan really a blueprint for the NHS – 10 years on?”

By its own admission, the NHS Plan was an ambitious policy document. It was hailed as a blueprint to restore and modernise the NHS to meet the public’s expectations of a 21st century health service. It marked the start of increased investment, with radical reforms designed to change the system failures of the NHS and to put the patient at its centre.

Next year will mark the tenth anniversary of the NHS Plan and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Care & Public Health thought it timely to find out if the NHS Plan did what it set out to do.

Of course, our focus is specific to primary care and public health and so we want to know if quality and outcomes concerning primary care and public health have improved in the last ten years. We would appreciate your views and ask that you answer the following questions:

1) During the last ten years there have been structural and system changes in the NHS with significant investment programmes to build a 21st century health service which is responsive to individual’s needs.

- Do we now have a patient centred NHS and what does it look like?

2) According to the NHS Plan, the frontline to healthcare is in the home and most healthcare starts with people looking after themselves and their families at home. The NHS Plan aimed to encourage people to look after their health and prevent ill health by providing information resources such as NHS Direct, wider screening programmes and through joint working with public services to intervene before ill health occurs.

- Did these strategies fulfil the aspiration to transform the NHS into a health and wellbeing service rather than a “sick” service?

3) The NHS Plan was to change the way GP practices work. Pressures on secondary care would be eased through expansion and improvement of services and standards in primary care. Practice nurses would triage and see more patients, reception staff would deal with coughs, colds and minor ailments, improvements would be made to the quality of GPs working days while at the same time assuring a better experience for the patient in primary care.

- Have primary care skills mix been enhanced with sufficient numbers of staff employed to deliver primary care services to fulfil the blueprint's vision?
- Is the primary care experience better for patients?

4) A major theme for the NHS Plan was to improve health and reduce inequalities. In particular there was a focus on improving children's lives to increase their life chances through better health education, the establishment of Sure Start to teach mothers to care for their children and to make free fruit available for 4-6 year olds.

- Have we improved the health education of our children to ensure better life chances?

Timescale and schedule for the inquiry

We apologise for the short notice but would appreciate receiving your written evidence by: Thursday 16th April 2009. Please send your evidence to the secretariat of the Group, Libby Whittaker, email: libby.whittaker@pagb.co.uk, telephone 020 7421 9318. **It is essential that you keep your evidence to 4 sides of A4 – if it is more it will not be accepted.**

An oral evidence session will be held on: 21st April 2009 from 3pm – 5pm in Committee Room 17 and you are very welcome to attend, please confirm with the secretariat.

We very much look forward to receiving your evidence.

Current Membership of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Care & Public Health

Officers

Dr Howard Stoate (Co-chair)
Sandra Gidley (Co-chair)
Anne Milton (Co-chair)

Stephen Hesford (Secretary)
Baroness Masham of Ilton (Treasurer)
Laura Moffatt (Executive officer)

Members of Group

John Austin
Dr Vincent Cable
Rosie Cooper
Jim Dobbin
Clive Efford
Baroness Gardner of Parkes
Paul Goggins
Hazel Blears
Baroness Hooper
Lynne Jones

Kevin Barron
Douglas Carswell
Baroness Cumberledge
Baroness Eccles of Moulton
Michael Fabricant
Andy Burnham
Dr Evan Harris
Paul Burstow
Joan Humble
Julia Goldsworthy

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Lord Philip Hunt
Helen Southworth
Mark Todd
Barbara Keeley
Lynda Walth
Andrew Love