



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Prescribed Drug Dependence

Minutes 5th July 2022

Present:

Danny Kruger MP (DK)	Chair	Lord Crisp (NC)	Co-Chair
Earl of Sandwich (ES)	Officer	Baroness Masham of Ilton	Officer
Baroness Meyer (CM)	Member	Luke Montagu (LM)	Secretariat
James Davies (JD)	Secretariat	Anne Guy (AG)	Secretariat

Guest speakers:

Jayne Hoyle (JH)	Manager, Bristol & District Tranquiliser Project
Rosanna O'Connor (RoC)	Director, Addictions & Inclusion, Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, DHSC
Steve Taylor (ST)	Programme Manager, Alcohol and Drugs Team

Apologies – see end of document

Item	Description	Who	By When
1	The minutes of the Jan AGM were accepted. The election of Baroness Meyer as an officer was deferred to the next meeting.		
2	<p>Report from the front line</p> <p>Jayne Hoyle (JH) gave a report on behalf of the UK's only current Helpline for PDD, the Bristol and District Tranquiliser Project (presentation included with the minutes).</p> <p>The meeting recognised that the demand on this helpline is small example of the national need. NC queried how many times will a caller typically call? JH confirmed that it could be every day for a long time or for those managing better, might just call pre-reduction. Also, how many medications are being taken can influence this number.</p> <p>DK thanked JH for her presentation.</p>		
3	<p>Secretariat update on National Helpline and Website</p> <p>AG updated the meeting on the influence of other policy initiatives on the demand for prescribed drug dependence support services.</p> <p>Specifically, neither the Structured Medication Review programme introduced in 2020, nor the National Overprescribing Review report, published in 2021, mention withdrawal or the need for it to be supported as part of deprescribing. There is a danger therefore that these very laudable programmes might inadvertently increase the number of patients experiencing withdrawal problems. Social prescribing link workers can help with routing people to alternative interventions to drugs but are not trained or resourced to support patients during withdrawal.</p>		

	<p>The meeting also reviewed an overview of operational options for implementing a national helpline (in terms of use of existing helpline infrastructure & knowledge versus greenfield options) (AG)</p> <p>The meeting agreed to continue flagging these concerns with NHSE contacts.</p>	Sec	
4	<p>DHSC update on implementing the Helpline recommendation (Rosanna O'Connor)</p> <p>RoC confirmed her previous involvement in the PHE review, which was welcomed by all players. However, PHE has been disbanded, & she is now part of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).</p> <p>Consideration of the Helpline was taken on by part of the DHSC who put together a spending review bid, which failed partially as because of a perceived lack of evidence for the helpline. The next full spending review would likely to be in late 2024 (a 3 year cycle).</p> <p>LM queried what evidence was missing for a helpline? RoC indicated it was more about the strength of support behind the spending bid not being evident.</p> <p>LM: How much funding was applied for? £1.9M – but it's not clear what this was modelled on. Any information RoC can share would be much appreciated.</p>	RoC	
5	<p>Strategy discussion actions</p> <p>Following a discussion to identify possible actions to secure funding / support the implementation of a Helpline the group agreed to:</p> <p>Continue to seek and create opportunities for media support, including local opportunities. AG to discuss also with Lived and Professional Experience Advisory Panel (www.leap4pdd.org) members.</p> <p>RoC agreed to identify which team / who in the DHSC dept will pick up the direct responsibility for this.</p> <p>Agreed follow up with Danny for actions with MPs once who to contact becomes clear.</p>	Sec AG RoC Sec / DK	
6	<p>Secretariat update on other workstreams</p> <p>(i) NHSE&I Commissioning Framework publication delay been advised August. AG to follow up with NHSE</p> <p>(ii) NICE Guidelines - LM/JD met with PC at NICE – very reluctant to make changes given how recently it's been published – LM will make representations on this to him via a letter highlighting research that might support the changes we're looking for. How will the move to 'Living guidelines' be followed through on.</p>	AG LM / JD	

	<p>(iii) Lived Experience Advisory Panel for Prescribed Drug Dependence (www.leap4pdd.org) As agreed at the AGM in January, the secretariat has facilitated the creation of this panel. The independent group is facilitated by CEP-UK and aims to represent patient's views / link in experts by experience (including those running existing services), to inform new service creation. It will also make relevant information & documents available online for access by the DHSC or NHS teams.</p>		
7	<p>AOB Influencing manifestos - LM/JD met with shadow MH minister, Rosina Kahn, DK to approach (sec to set up)</p> <p>Next meeting – secretariat to discuss with DK</p>	Sec	

Apologies

Peter Kinderman (PK)	Secretariat	Steve Brine MP (SB)	Officer
Crispin Blunt MP (CB)	Officer	Baroness Stroud (PS)	Officer
Baroness Hollins (SH)	Officer	Debbie Abrahams MP	Officer