

## **APPG for Prescribed Drug Dependence: Minutes of Meeting**

Macmillan Room, Portcullis House, Westminster  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 2016, 11am – 1pm

**Title of meeting: Rising Prescriptions, Rising Mental Health Disability - Is there a Link?**

**Chair:** Paul Flynn MP

### **Attendees:**

Debbie Abrahams MP  
Luciana Berger MP, Shadow Minister for Mental Health  
Baroness Masham of Ilton  
The Baroness Hollins  
Earl of Sandwich  
The Baroness Watkins

Also attending:  
Approximately 45 representatives of patient groups and other stakeholders.

### **PROGRAMME:**

This meeting of the APPG for PDD consisted of the following programme:

- 1) Welcome and introduction by Paul Flynn MP
- 2) Presentation by Robert Whitaker, health writer and Pulitzer finalist - 'Causation, not just correlation: increased disability in the age of prozac'.
- 3) Presentation by Paul Brett, a patient affected by prescribed drug dependence.
- 4) Professor Peter Kinderman, President of the British Psychological Society, introduced the panellists, each of whom responded to the presentations:

Professor Allan Young, Chair of Psychopharmacology, Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Professor Sami Timimi, Head of Medical Education, Lincoln NHS Trust, and child and adolescent psychiatrist.

Dr Joanna Moncrieff, Senior Lecturer, University College London, and consultant psychiatrist.

Dr Andrew Green, Chair of the BMA GPs' Clinical and Prescribing Subcommittee.

Baroness Stroud, Executive Director, Centre for Social Justice.

- 5) Prof Peter Kinderman invited Robert Whitaker to respond to the panel's comments before inviting discussion from the floor. Prof Kinderman then chaired a

Q&A discussion with contributions from members of the audience and responses from the panel.

6) Prof Peter Kinderman summed up the key points of the discussion.

7) Paul Flynn MP closed the meeting.

## **PRESENTATION AND VIDEO**

Robert Whitaker's presentation is available at

<http://prescribeddrug.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Causation-not-just-correlation-copy-5.pdf>

A video of the event is available on Youtube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vejVt1fNYQk>