



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Prescribed Drug Dependence

Minutes 24th January 2023

Present:

Danny Kruger MP (DK)	Chair	Earl of Sandwich (JM)	Officer
Crispin Blunt MP (CB)	Officer	David Johnston (DJ)	MP
Heather Wheeler (HW)	MP	Anne Guy (AG)	Secretariat
James Davies (JD)	Secretariat		
Mims Schluter (MS)	Parliamentary Assistant to Danny Kruger MP		

Apologies (see end)

Guests:

Dr Mark Horowitz (MH)	Speaker - Clinical Research Fellow in the NHS, Honorary Clinical Research Fellow at UCL and training psychiatrist.
Dr Bogdan Chiva Giurca (BCG)	Lead, Global Social Prescribing Alliance, Clinical Champion, National Academy for Social Prescribing, Lecturer, Imperial College London (Medical School), Beyond Pills Campaign
Sarah Stacey (SS)	Beyond Pills Campaign

Item	Description	Who	By When
1	<p>AGM (DK)</p> <p>The following were proposed and re-elected as officers of the group by the parliamentarians present: Danny Kruger MP (Con) Chair, Lord Crisp Co-chair, Baroness Hollins Officer, Baroness Masham of Ilton Officer, Earl of Sandwich Officer, Baroness Stroud Officer, Debbie Abrahams MP (Lab) Officer, Crispin Blunt MP (Con) Officer. Steve Brine MP (Con) Officer Baroness Meyer (Con) was elected as a new officer.</p> <p>The secretariat co-ordinator will send in the necessary paperwork to re-register the group by the deadline of 21st February.</p>	AG	21/02
2	<p>APPG activity updates:</p> <p>2.1 Health select committee inquiry proposal: wasn't selected in the latest round, AG to ask if any feedback and when the next selection round will take place.</p> <p>2.2 Helpline funding: MS arranging a call with ED at DHSC to discuss the way ahead including requesting a copy of the spending review bid. JM offered to raise a question in the HoL – will liaise with secretariat re wording.</p>	AG MS / DK JM	Done

<p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p>	<p>NHSE local services commissioning framework: AG advised Professor Tony Avery, National Clinical Prescribing Director, has facilitated communication with the PHE implementation project team around the delayed publication of the framework.</p> <p>The document has undergone significant revision - the Secretariat has given feedback on a draft of the re-worked title and key actions, which had regrettably lost its focus on providing support for withdrawal.</p> <p>Whilst the APPG endorsed the last version of the framework in January 2022, in the absence of a fully copy of the new version the Secretariat cannot yet recommend this be maintained. The secretariat will update APPG members once it has been seen.</p> <p>Other secretariat priorities for the next year: Research: JD outlined a proposed research project into the harms caused by long term use of antidepressants. An application for seed funding will be made to the University of Roehampton in Feb, hoping for publication early 2024. The meeting agreed with this priority.</p> <p>Training of professionals involved in withdrawal support / deprescribing programmes:</p> <p>(a) Ensuring new psychological therapists are trained to recognise and support withdrawal from prescribed psychiatric drugs – AG working with a team to create training materials based on the published Guidance for Therapists (2019) for pilot in some Universities 2023/24.</p> <p>(b) What do doctors need to enable them to deprescribe safely? Presentation from MH and discussion with Beyond Pills team to understand how these needs might overlap with their plans for influencing how doctors are trained.</p> <p>MH, BCG and SS joined the meeting.</p>	<p>Sec</p> <p>JD</p> <p>AG</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Presentation from Dr Mark Horowitz: What do doctors and pharmacists need to know to deprescribe safely? Questions: DK: Are patients not being listened to? Do they understand it's withdrawal? MH: Yes, there are a number of patients on social media seeking information and support because their doctor hasn't recognised withdrawal, plus there a large number of patients who don't know about withdrawal. There's a very strong patient voice emerging.</p> <p>The meeting agreed with DK's suggestion he should apply for a parliamentary debate to raise awareness of the scale of this issue.</p> <p>SS: Suggested members of the secretariat plus MH could attend an event at the King's Fund in February – the new Patient Safety Commissioner, Dr Henrietta Hughes, and the National Clinical Prescribing Director, Prof Tony Avery are both speaking.</p> <p>BCG: There is a clear overlap with the Beyond Pills campaign for</p>	<p>DK</p> <p>AG/ MH</p>	<p>15/02</p>

	doctors training to be updated. Secretariat to meet with team on 3 rd March to explore this and other common agenda points, including the public narrative for withdrawal.	Sec / BP team	03/03
	BCG also suggested the secretariat might attend an event planned to mark Social Prescribing Day on 9 th March.	BCG	
	MH and the secretariat are meeting Prof Tony Avery in March to explore avenues for GP and pharmacist training on this subject.	Sec / MH	13/03
	Can NICE / Paul Chrisp influence / support research priorities? Sec to discuss and set up meeting if appropriate.	AG	
4	Next meeting – secretariat to discuss with DK	Sec	

Apologies

Steve Brine MP (SB)	Officer	Debbie Abrahams MP	Officer
Baroness Masham of Ilton	Officer	Baroness Hollins (SH)	Officer
Baroness Stroud (PS)	Officer	Lord Crisp (NC)	Co-Chair
Luke Montagu (LM)	Secretariat		

Dr Michael Dixon, Chair of The College of Medicine, Co-Chair of the National Social Prescribing Network, Visiting Professor at University College London and Westminster University and Head of the Royal Medical Household, Beyond Pills Campaign