



# Associate *Parliamentary* Limb Loss Group

for the promotion within Parliament and Whitehall of the Prevention of limb loss and the Provision of prosthetic, orthotic, wheelchair and other vital rehabilitation services to all persons suffering limb loss in the UK and Internationally

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08

This **ANNUAL REPORT** is presented for the year ending 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

**OFFICERS** for the Group were Lord McColl of Dulwich, Danny Alexander MP, Paul Clark MP, Mark Hunter MP and Justine Greening MP

### PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS

In addition to the AGM, Meetings were held in collaboration with the All-Party Parliamentary Landmines Eradication Group and with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Diabetes. A Regional meeting was also held at the Roehampton Rehabilitation Centre with the theme of preventing limb loss through diabetes.

### OUTREACH

Outreach in the UK and internationally was steadily developed through the Group's web portal, promulgation of the 6Cs in the Group's Charter, and the personal support of Members and of Associates with Ministers and with Departmental officers. The formation of Limb Loss Groups in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is being progressed.

Productive exchanges of views took place with officers of the Department for International Development, the Department of Health, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Office for Disability Issues, the Ministry of Defence, the National Defence Research Establishment, the Healthcare Commission, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency, the Centre for Evidence Based Purchasing, the NHS Supply Chain, Health Professionals and their Associations, and last but not least Patients, Service Users and Carers.

User Groups and their networks in the United Kingdom and internationally were further enhanced. Links with the European Union were initiated and continue to be developed.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES CONCERNS

There are general concerns. Whilst recognising and welcoming increased efficiencies, cost-effectiveness must not dominate clinical effectiveness. Funding must be adequate, secure and patient-led. Loyal health professionals cannot indefinitely be expected to give more from less. New graduates must not expect to find themselves unemployed because of lack of long-term personnel planning. Crossing organisational and departmental boundaries, it is hoped that the new style Commissioners will cross organisational budget boundaries to enable and sustain specialised services for prevention as well as rehabilitation. The savings accruing in Health and other Departmental budgets, from effective prosthetics, orthotics, podiatry, wheelchair and other assistive technologies/services, must be recognised and rewarded. Welcome operational delegation must not threaten and undermine specialised services serving a number of Trusts when those Trusts experience short-term financial pressures.

## SERVICE PERSONNEL & VETERANS

In collaboration with the British Ex-Servicemen's Association, close relationships continue with the excellent DEFENCE MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE funded by the Ministry of Defence, for wounded and injured service personnel at HEADLEY COURT. Additional Health Services funding is required now and long-term, to give those leaving Headley to become Veterans and transfer to the NHS care, the high quality services and equipment they have been promised. We therefore welcome the understanding of **Health Secretary ALAN JOHNSON** that *“our Servicemen and Women do an outstanding job and we all owe them a duty of care.”* As inter-Departmental collaboration and support is essential we equally welcome the assurance of **Veterans Minister DEREK TWIGG** that *“the well-being of serving personnel and veterans is a top priority for me and for the Government.”* Limb Loss from Iraq and from Afghanistan and other theatres is for life and not just for the duration of the conflict.

## EARLY DAY MOTION

A meeting is still awaited with the appropriate Minister arising from EDM 25 in which the House noted the concerns of the Group and of the All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group for greater provision of wheelchair services.

## THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

We welcome the forthcoming adoption and ratification by Her Majesty's Government of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which should empower Persons with Disabilities as a distinctive group, to be included in mainstream international programmes such as, Education, Gender Equality, Maternal Health, Child Mortality, HIV/Aids. In contrast the eight important Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed by the United Nations in September 2,000 and which Her Majesty's Government support contain no reference to disabilities. We suggest that, for the realisation in Developing Countries of the objectives of the Convention and of the MDGs, it is vital to secure and sustain Human Rights to Personal Mobility and Access of people with disabilities by evaluating and financing adequate local provision of Prosthetic, Orthotic and Wheelchair programmes and services.

## CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE BASED PURCHASING

With welcome finance from the Centre for Evidence Based Purchasing and the skilled support of their officers a literature search into SOCKET COMFORT has been completed. Stage 2, investigating and disseminating the best practices of Pathfinder Prosthetists, is in hand. The Centre is also financing research into power packs and batteries for powered wheelchairs with a view to the provision of a "Which" type guide of benefit to both users and carers.

## FINANCIAL BENEFITS

The Group neither received nor sought external funding.

## MATERIAL BENEFITS

Material benefits consisted of services provided without charge by the voluntary services of the Advisor and of the Consultant to the Group.

## APRECIATION

The Group expresses their appreciation of all the continued unselfish help and caring advice given to them during the year.

*Co Chair's* Lord McColl, Danny Alexander MP, Paul Clark MP & Mark Hunter MP  
*Secretary* Justine Greening MP *Dated* 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008

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