



Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the Promotion of the Prevention of Limb Loss and of the Provision of Prosthetic, Orthotic, Wheelchair/Special Seating, Medical and other vital Rehabilitation Services to persons of all ages suffering Limb Loss and associated Complex Physical Disabilities in the United Kingdom and Internationally

Minutes of General Meeting held at 4pm on Monday
25th October 2010 in Strangers Room at the House of Commons

PRESENT

MEMBERS present included: Alison Seabeck MP (Chair); Anne Begg MP; Baroness Wilkins; Baroness Masham; Baroness Thornton; Eric Ollernshaw MP; Steve McCabe MP; Mark Hendrick MP and Iain Davidson MP.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Adam Wright; Andrew Brown; Andy Platts; Andy Shepherd; Anette Hodosi; Ann Blythman; Joanna Bowtell; Anne-Marie Spence; Antony Roberts; Amy Edwards; Bob Watts; Clare Western; Cliff Shearman; Colin Dance; Daniel Jones; Denis May; Ernie Stables; Fergus Jepson; Gary Phillips; Geoff Goss; Georgina Gallop; Glyn Heath; Graham Plant; Heath Stook; Helen Pyper; Iain Robertson; Jai Kulkarni; James Allsop; Jane Healy; Jenny Rogers; Jerome Church; John Hooper; John Murray; John Reid; John Ward; Jose Spring; Judith Mellis; June Warren; Karen Middleton; Katy Askew; Louise Medus-Mansell; Marie Gornall; Mark McIntyre; Mary Jane Cole; Michael Clark; Michael Edmonds; Michael O'Byrne; Michael Parker; Nichola Carrington; Paul Bristow; Peter Gage; Philip Yates; Rebecca Wilkinson; Richard Phillips; Robert Bentley; Scott Richardson; Sean Overett; Simon Webster; Stephen Robinson; Steve Fearn; Steve McNeice; Sue Taylor; Susan Charlesworth; Tamas Hodosi; Tanya Holloway.

Advisor: Wayne Henderson

Administrator: Dave White

Apologies for absence were received.

ALISON SEABECK MP opened the meeting, welcomed members and guests, and expressed appreciation of and thanks to all concerned with the important outreach of the Group. There were pressures on NHS resources, but Prevention of Limb Loss would result in savings overall.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Group Members present noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July which had been circulated.

PROGRESS REPORT: the following Progress Report presented at the meeting on behalf of Sam Gallop was noted.

"CUTS IN SERVICES are of course in the minds of all of us. Particularly as there is a limit to what can be achieved through efficiency savings. However we shall continue to be constructively vigilant. Specialised Commissioning of the highest quality is vital. Limb Loss and other services for individuals with Complex Physical Disabilities KEEP PEOPLE OUT OF HOSPITAL, thereby both reducing healthcare costs and enhancing an individual's Quality of Life.

Concerning wounded **SERVICE PERSONNEL & VETERANS** it is good to see friends from BLESMA with us this evening. Government has given welcome undertakings of high quality and priority treatment, and whilst we welcome those undertakings, it is recognised that additional resources are needed. So we are representing to both the DoH and to the MoD that, in meeting Government undertakings, NHS Services must not be compromised. A significant hope is that King's Health Partners may be formally recognised as a holistic Centre of Excellence for Service Personnel &

Veterans, especially bearing in mind that some of their healthcare professionals are serving in Afghanistan and have served in Iraq. We shall be submitting an appropriate Early Day Motion for the benefit of all patients.

Karen Middleton and her colleagues at the Department of Health are prominent in seeking to help build capacity and capability for the **Allied Health Professionals** who keep us active and independent and as pain-free as possible. No easy task in what has been described as a 'cold' climate.

Following up the welcome and inspiring initiative of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability, a hoped-for development which we are supporting is a new **Foundation Degree in Clinical Technology** at the London South Bank University. Continued professional development for all staff and adequate recruitment is essential and must be funded.

The National Prosthetic Centre Managers Group are delighted that the Department of Health are using their **'National Service Specification for Prosthetic and Amputee Rehabilitation'** as a starting point for the forthcoming Prosthetics and Orthotics commissioning review. They hope that any current fragmented Prosthetic and Orthotic Services commissioning arrangements will be brought back within Specialist Commissioning, where they can be more appropriately managed.

The need for **Consultants in Rehabilitation Medicine** is recognised in **Specialised Definition Set Number 5 for Patients with Complex Physical Disabilities**. The Set illuminates the steadily widening role of and the need for holistic Rehabilitation Centres covering Prosthetics, Orthotics, Wheelchairs and Special Seating and other Assistive Technologies, and their skills as Specialised Service Providers. Here again we are grateful for the support we are receiving from Specialised Commissioners.

We look forward to further recognition of all **Services concerned with Complex Physical Disabilities**, in collaboration with other key players, including the British Healthcare Trades Association, the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists, the Society of Chiropodists & Podiatrists, the United Kingdom Branch of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, the Wheelchair Managers Forum, the Association of British Healthcare Industries, the Royal Society of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Physicians and last but not least the Royal College of Surgeons who get individuals like me here in the first place.

International Needs grow apace. Ratification by our Government of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a signpost which will hopefully lead to more specific funding for our Associate Members who are so active overseas, often in trying terrains. It might be said that alongside ISPO they are setting the pace in the training of Prosthetists, Orthotists and Technicians and in Wheelchair Design."

PRESENTATIONS BY DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Presentations were then made by Professor Cliff Shearman, President of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland to share his guidance on the Avoidance of Amputation and then by Mr Iain Robertson, Vice President of the British Society of Interventional Radiology on Saving Legs, Secondary Care (see **Annexe A and Annexe B**). Points made during the subsequent discussions are set out in **Annexe C** and will be followed up where actions are required.

MINISTER FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

The Minister for Disabled People **MARIA MILLER** joined the meeting. The Minister congratulated the Group Members on their achievements, and welcomed all the good work going ahead despite the unavoidable austerity measures that had been announced and the challenges. The Minister was hopeful that she would be able to help the Group further in the future.

SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The presence and support of **BARONESS THORNTON**, Shadow Minister for Health, was welcomed.

VOTES OF THANKS

Votes of thanks were registered by Wayne Henderson, Advisor to the Group, and received with appreciation, as follows:

“We have had a tremendous turnout this afternoon for an engaging and extremely important set of presentations. As an Amputee I know that there is not one of us who would rather we had been able to avoid amputation in the first place. So please help me show our appreciation and thanks to Professor Cliff Shearman and Iain Robertson for coming here to talk to us today, thank you.

Without the caring and energetic support of Members from both Houses of Parliament for this Group, the ‘limbless’ would be less well vouched for in our society. Thank you and thanks also to the Associates to the Group, who work in different ways to improve the quality of life for the limbless.

It is good to have the Shadow Minister for Health, Baroness Thornton, with us.

I would also like to thank David White and Penelope Morrison from the Limbless Association, Rebecca Wilkinson from the Circulation Foundation and the Association of British Healthcare Industries for their help in organizing this event.

In particular this afternoon’s session would not have been possible without the hard work and effort of Paul Bristow of PB Political Consulting. Thank you

We have been well cared for and catered to by the skilled and tireless House of Parliament team here in the Strangers Dining Room. Thank you.

And last but not least, we are tremendously grateful to the Minister who has been able to join the meeting and stay to listen to the comments and questions from the floor. I know that at this time you have a very busy calendar, so the fact that you could make time at such short notice to join us is wonderful. Thank you”

Please Note: That copies of Annexe A, Annexe B and Annexe C are available on www.apllg.eu/mins.html along with these minutes.

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