



Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the promotion within Parliament and Whitehall, of the provision of prosthetic and other rehabilitation services to all persons suffering limb loss in the UK and internationally.

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held at 4 p.m. on 6th February 2006 in Committee Room G at the House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW

PRESENT:

Members: Lord McColl (Chair), Justine Greening MP (Secretary), Baroness Darcy de Knayth, Baroness Lockwood, Baroness Masham, Baroness Wilkins, Sadiq Khan MP, Sian James MP. Caroline Spelman MP.

Associates: Boyeji Afolayan, Sue Banton, David Bickers, Stephen Bradshaw, Beatrice Cami, Jerome Church, Stephen Coltman, Keren Down, Renée Gallop; Sam Gallop, Philip Garvin, Neil Griffiths, Carson Harte, Ray Hodgkinson, Grania Hyde-Smith, Zafar Khan, Steve McNeice, Nicole Penn-Symons, Andrew Pipe, Ernie Stables, Alex Testa.

Apologies for absence were received.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Agreed to elect Lord McColl and Roger Berry MP as Co-Chairs and Justine Greening MP as Secretary. Appointment of a Treasurer was being sought.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

2. Agreed the following terms of reference:

Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group, both national and international, for the promotion within Parliament and Whitehall, of the provision of prosthetic and other rehabilitation services to all persons suffering limb loss in the United Kingdom and internationally.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMONS AND LORDS

3. Agreed to elect Members as in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

4. Agreed to elect Associate Members as in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

FUNDING & RESOURCES & OUTCOMES

5. The following were among the views expressed:

- It was difficult to secure sustained funding for small UK charities despite there seeming to be no alternative to services they provided;

- Funding was becoming increasingly tight for international charities;
- There was a lack of awareness among project officers and organisations of the need for equal human rights for disabled people - a global campaign was needed;
- The latest crop of NHS reforms did not feature rehabilitation services which were “orphans” belonging to nobody - they were continually being under-funded by Primary Care Trusts to provide funds for other services;
- There was a shortage of resources both in the UK and internationally -what were the reasons for refusing resources?
- There was a need to enhance, and to expedite delivery of, donations from “Lottery” funds;
- Whole life cost/benefits, and advantages in the community and taking people off benefit, should be taken into account - a national look was needed;
- The shortage of Health Care Professionals including Therapists, Prosthetists, Orthotists, and Technicians was contributing to the pent up demand – take up of the excellent PASA Orthotics “Pathfinder” project must be expedited;
- Full advantage needed yet to be taken of the excellent work of the Health Care Industries Task Force;
- Regard should be had to the work of Lord Swinfen in Bangladesh;
- Psychological as well as physical needs must be met - here again there was a shortage of resources with additional costs being created elsewhere.
- The 6Cs Limb Loss International Charter (including the UK) described core User needs and was already proving influential.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

6. It was noted that:

- The proposed Third School at St George’s University of London/Kingston University linked to Roehampton DSC, would, subject to funding, innovate Foundation Degrees for Technologists with stepping stones and direct entry to B.Sc. Degrees for Prosthetists/Orthotists;
- Funding for short-term bursaries, linked to Third School developments, for overseas healthcare professionals, initially from Pakistan, was being pursued, with the need to avoid “poaching” and the

teaching of non-transferable techniques being kept well in mind – training in and for developing countries must match their resources/techniques/special skills;

- Training would continue to be taken from the UK to other countries with support from the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine, British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists, British Health Care Trades Association members, Therapists and others;
- The British Health Care Trades Association would provide significant information about the shortage of UK trainees and opportunities for training;
- Information would be forthcoming from relevant Associate Members about the training facilities and opportunities they were providing and creating overseas - there was much good work going on;
- The Foundation for Assistive Technology was assessing standards for AT services and developing an education and training framework.

7. ALL PARTY GROUP ON DISABILITY

It was confirmed that there would be close and continuing liaison through Mr Berry with the All Party Group on Disability

8. UNMET NEEDS AND RIGHTS

Recognising present and future significant unmet United Kingdom and International needs and rights of disabled people because of inadequate resources, it was agreed that each Associate be enabled to complete standard summary UK and/or International analyses, for return within two weeks, so that quantified comprehensive national and international reviews could be presented to appropriate Ministers and organisations.

There being no further business the meeting then closed.

Signed:

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Position

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Dated

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