



Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the promotion within Parliament and Whitehall of the prevention of limb loss and the provision of prosthetic, orthotic, wheelchairs & special seating, and other vital rehabilitation services/technologies for all persons with limb loss in the United Kingdom and Internationally.

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

This ANNUAL REPORT is presented for the year ending 5th February 2009.

OFFICERS for the Group are **DANNY ALEXANDER MP, JUSTINE GREENING MP, MARK HUNTER MP, SUSAN KRAMER MP, LORD MCCOLL, DR DOUG NAYSMITH MP, BARONESS TONGE and SIR GEORGE YOUNG.**

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

The Group neither received nor sought external funding.

MATERIAL BENEFITS

Material benefits consisted of Administrative services provided without charge by the Limbless Association through Alex Hyde-Smith, and the voluntary services of the Advisor to the Group Sam Gallop C.B.E.

MEETINGS AND OUTREACH

Three Group Parliamentary meetings were held. Meetings with and visits by individual Peers and MPs were greatly appreciated. Ministers and Departmental Officers gave helpful advice on developments and pathways. A conference with the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists explored the way forward for P & O services. Welcome exchanges of ideas for action also took place with representatives of: *Age Concern; Arthritis Care; Association for Children with Hand or Arm Deficiency (REACH); Association of Rehabilitation Service Centre Managers; British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA); British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA); British Polio Fellowship; British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine (BSRM); Cambodia Trust; College of Occupational Therapists (COT); Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP); Contact A Family; Diabetes UK; Disabled Living Foundation; Douglas Bader Foundation; Handicap International; Help The Aged; International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (UK); Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People; Limbless Association; Motability; Motivation; Murray Foundation; Muscular Dystrophy Campaign; National Health Service Supply Chain; National Wheelchair Managers Forum; POWER International; Prosthetics, Orthotics & Rehabilitation Technology – Education & Research (PORT-ER); Response International; Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability, Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists; Specialised Healthcare Alliance; Spinal Injuries Association; Steps Charity Worldwide; Whizz-Kidz and many other good friends.*

PATIENTS CHARTER

Under the aegis of the Group, the Patients Charter for Prosthetic Services has been updated to include the welcome new Duty to Involve and additional Government Commitments to Military Serving Personnel and to Veterans.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING NETWORK

In collaboration with other All-Party Parliamentary Groups, a Knowledge Sharing Network for People with Complex Physical Disabilities has been created, which will help share best practices, and support National Commissioning. The advice of Officers concerned with Specialised Services has been and continues to be most valuable.

NHS SUPPLY CHAIN

The creation by the NHS Supply Chain of its new Rehabilitation Council will contribute significantly to more patient-effective and cost-effective assistive technologies and services.

EARLY DAY MOTION

An Early Day Motion urges Her Majesty's Government to ensure that access to Prosthetic and Orthotic and Wheelchair Services in Developing Countries is mainstreamed and adequate thus enabling people with disabilities to be included in pushing Growth up the development agenda. MPs involved include **JOHN BATTLE, JOHN BERCOW, DR. VINCENT CABLE, ANN CLWYD, JUSTINE GREENING AND MARK HUNTER.**

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

We express our appreciation of the unselfish and compassionate services provided by our Associate Non-Government Organisation members and which in view of their increasing and ever more needed scale are the subject of a related report.

APPRENTICES

A Study Day, to be launched by **JUSTINE GREENING MP** at the Douglas Bader Rehabilitation Centre in Roehampton, with **BARONESS TONGE** joining in, will support the Government's intention, expressed by **LORD DARZI**, to double the investment in Apprentices over the next four years.

CHILDREN

ANGELA WATKINSON MP will launch a Study Day for Children with Limb Loss (congenital and acquired) and Families, in Westminster, headed by the Harold Wood Disablement Services Centre.

(UN)EMPLOYMENT

CAROLINE SPELMAN MP is helping disabled people get back into employment by promoting Vocational Rehabilitation services available in and around the West Midlands.

VETERANS

DR. DOUG NAYSMITH MP is helping to promote the Government's caring and valued undertaking to *"raise awareness among healthcare professionals about the needs of Veterans so that these needs are met."*

INDEPENDENT LIVING

SIR GEORGE YOUNG MP is joining with others in helping people with disabilities to live independently and with dignity in their own homes instead of in hospital or in care homes.

HIGH COST TREATMENTS

MARK HUNTER MP joined with the Chairs of six other All-Party Parliamentary Groups in commending to the Secretary of State for Health greater ethical consistency across the NHS in the funding of high cost treatments.

TRAINING OF SURGEONS

On the initiative of **Lord McColl**, with the benefit of funding from the Limbless Association, a Course in Amputation Techniques is being held at the Royal College of Surgeons.

WHEELCHAIRS

The National Centre for Evidence Based Purchasing New Buyers' Guide, *Add-on power devices for manual wheelchairs – CEP 08033*, on which Group representatives advised, has been published. Representatives are also involved in the updating of the Guidelines from the National Wheelchair Services Managers Forum. Improvements in delivery times, particularly for Electrically Powered Indoor Outdoor Chair (EPIOCs) are welcomed. The support of **BARONESS MASHAM** and **BARONESS WILKINS** and other Spinal Injuries Association friends is both heart-warming and inspiring.

CONCERNS

There are of course concerns. Specific concerns include:

- Difficulties in securing funding for small UK charities and for international charities
- Whole-life cost benefits of rehabilitation are not recognised because of “silo” budgeting
- Shortages in numbers of health care professionals are rationing services
- Effects on staff morale of seemingly never-ending NHS re-organisations
- The need to avoid “not invented here” and to foster improvement and innovation

THANKSGIVING

We express our thanks for all the unselfish help and caring advice given so generously to us during our past year of service.

**Feedback to
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