



ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY THROMBOSIS GROUP

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13th September, 2.00pm - 2.30pm
Meeting Room R, Portcullis House

Attendees:

Lyn Brown MP (Chair)
Andrew Gwynne MP (Vice-Chair)
Baroness Masham of Ilton (Vice-Chair)
Lord Brookman
Dr Paul Williams MP
Diane Eaton, AntiCoagulation UK
James Le Grice, Four Public Affairs

Election of officers and introduction of new Chair:

- Andrew Gwynne welcomed attendees to the meeting, outlining that he would be standing down as Chair and that Lyn Brown had put herself forward to succeed him.
- Andrew formally proposed that Lyn Brown be elected Chair, that he be elected Vice-Chair, that Baroness Masham and David Amess be re-elected as Vice-Chairs, and that Lord Haworth be re-elected as Secretary. This was agreed by all present.
- Andrew briefly outlined the activities the group would be undertaking in 2017, including a roundtable event on VTE prevention and management in Greater Manchester and the Annual Conference in Parliament.

Approval of group registration form:

- Lyn signed the group registration form, listing the group's officers and statement of purpose: "To promote awareness amongst parliamentarians about the risk and management of venous thromboembolism (VTE); to increase knowledge of its causes, effects, treatments; and to monitor the implementation of government initiatives and other research being undertaken."
- The registration form also declared the group's secretariat services as a benefit in kind: "AntiCoagulation UK pays Four to act as the group's secretariat from grants received from the Pfizer – BMS Alliance and Bayer." Value band of £13,501 – £15,000.
- Lyn also signed the APPTG's income and expenditure statement for 2016/17, which declared the secretariat services received during this time as a benefit in kind of a value band of £61,501 - £63,000.



Introduction to AntiCoagulation UK:

- Diane Eaton, Project Development Manager at AntiCoagulation UK (ACUK), outlined the role of her charity, which has supported patients receiving anticoagulation for thrombosis for 17 years.
- ACUK aims to provide information for patients; promote awareness of the challenges faced by those with the thrombosis; and to campaign for the availability of anticoagulant treatment.
- Diane explained that anticoagulants are blood thinners which are used to prevent and treat venous thromboembolism (VTE). She noted that warfarin is the most widely known anticoagulant, but that a new more effective class of anticoagulants known collectively as NOACS or DOACS are available for prevention and management of VTE.
- Diane outlined issues of variation in care around the country, particularly regarding availability of specialist nurses. Baroness Masham noted that similar issues of regional variation exist with cancer services.
- Lyn and Baroness Masham offered to table Parliamentary questions to help raise awareness of the issues discussed.
- Additionally, it was agreed that the APPTG should include representation from beyond England, as ACUK has a presence in Wales, England and Scotland. Lyn offered to recruit Welsh Labour colleagues to join the group, and Diane offered to share information with her on VTE in Wales.
- Lyn also proposed having a meeting with ACUK and other relevant experts to further discuss the current challenges of VTE across the country.

Greater Manchester Roundtable

- James Le Grice explained the rationale for holding a roundtable event in Greater Manchester. In discussions the previous year, former Chair Andrew Gwynne had raised concerns that moving hospital care into new settings (such as care homes) could result in a breakdown in the systems established for managing the risk of VTE in patients receiving acute care.
- With Manchester taking control of a devolved health and social care budget, it will be closely watched by the rest of the country as a test example of health and social care integration. It is therefore important to support development of an integrated system for VTE prevention and management that works across different care settings in Manchester.
- Through a roundtable discussion, the APPTG and ACUK will seek to bring together key figures in Greater Manchester's health and social care integration along with VTE clinical champions to discuss how a system for VTE prevention and management between secondary, primary and social care can prevent avoidable admissions to hospital, reduce mortality from VTE, and reduce costs associated with blood clots.
- Andrew Gwynne offered to chair this meeting and Lyn Brown also agreed to participate.
- It was agreed that Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, should be invited to attend the roundtable meeting, at least for the conclusion section when recommendations would be fed back. Recommendations from the meeting should also be sent to him in a letter from an attending academic.
- Lyn raised concerns about which body (NHS or local authority) controls health and social care funding at the borough level, noting that public health budgets controlled by local authorities have



previously been used to plug gaps in other council spending areas. It was agreed that the roundtable discussion should also cover whether differences in patient outcomes have been observed between boroughs with a council led approach and those with an NHS-led approach to health and social care integration.

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- It was agreed amongst attendees that there should be another meeting in January 2018 to review the findings of the 2017 Annual Review and outcomes of the Greater Manchester roundtable, and develop plans for 2018.
- Lyn also proposed seeking opportunities for collaboration with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Atrial Fibrillation in 2018, given shared interests between the two groups.
- Lyn noted that she is trying to secure a backbench debate on with World Thrombosis Day, and James agreed to provide any further information required in preparation for this.