



Bow Group Health & Education Policy Committee Submits Evidence to APPG Special Inquiry

On Friday 11th February, the Bow Group Health & Education Policy Committee submitted written evidence as part of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Primary Care and Public Health's special inquiry into the Government's public health White Paper. This followed a direct invitation from the APPG on the back of the Committee's recent publication, *'Putting the Health Back into Education'*, which includes a foreword from Charlotte Leslie MP (Member of the Education Selection Committee) and which is available here: <http://www.bowgroup.org/content/putting-health-back-education>.

The APPG's special inquiry, whose membership includes Kevin Barron MP (Co-Chair), Julie Elliott MP (Executive Officer), Dr Sarah Wollaston MP (member of the Health Select Committee), Mark Garnier MP (member of the Treasury Select Committee), and Theresa Villiers MP (Minister of State for Transport), is scrutinising the Government's public health policies as outlined in *'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England'* to see whether the White Paper truly seizes opportunities for better health. As part of the inquiry's terms of reference, the Bow Group was asked to submit evidence based on 5 key questions:

- 1) What are your views on the extent to which proposals will achieve positive changes to people's health leading them to be empowered citizens?
- 2) GP consortia are expected to help improve individual's health behaviour, what specific and practical initiatives do you see needing to be implemented in order to achieve this?
- 3) There have been many opportunities for schools to incorporate health education and yet this has been patchy because it is not part of the national curriculum, do you believe it should be a curriculum obligation and what should be covered if it were?
- 4) The public health white paper wants to ensure recommendations from the Marmot Review are implemented, such as enabling children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives, how would you tackle this problem?
- 5) a) How can you see public health information being provided in order to effect behavioural change to reach targeted populations at the optimum time?
b) Would this have more impact if there was a national campaign at the same time?

Stuart Carroll, Chairman of the Health & Education Policy Committee, said:

"It is a great privilege and opportunity to be asked to submit evidence to such an important inquiry. It is particularly pleasing that the APPG for Primary Care and Public Health has

taken on board the proposals and recommendations as outlined in our recent policy paper on health education, and recognised the importance of this policy area for the advancement of better public health. Although we are largely supportive of the Government's public health proposals, thinking through the details is essential for smooth and effective implementation. It is from this perspective that the APPG's inquiry touches upon some of the most important policy considerations moving forward, and the need to identify opportunities and challenges".

The Bow Group Health & Education Committee will also be submitting evidence as part of the Department of Health's ongoing public health consultation for '*Healthy Lives, Healthy People*', which will be available on the Bow Group website: www.bowgroup.org. This follows the Committee's interim response and recent policy papers on health education and the role of pharmacy for managing long-term conditions.