

## All-Party Parliamentary Group on Health and the Natural Environment

### Inaugural Meeting

27 April 2021

14:00 - 15:00pm GMT

#### In attendance:

Alexander Stafford MP (Chair)

Lord Best

Lord Blencathra

Lord Cormack

Baroness Lister

Baroness Masham

Baroness Parminter

Lord Randall

Baroness Scott

Lord Teverson

Baroness Watkins

Jared Ashe, NASP

Jim Burt, NASP

Tom Fadden, Alexander Stafford's Office

James Sanderson, NASP

Bev Taylor, NASP

Lydia Taylor, NASP

Michael Watson, Natural England

#### Apologies

Lord Benyon

Lord Bird

Baroness Boycott

Ian Byrne MP

Tracey Crouch MP

Lord Curry

Lord Dubs

Lord Howarth

Lord Inglewood

Caroline Lucas MP

Jerome Mayhew MP

Baroness Meacher

Lord McColl

Lord Shrewsbury

### **Election of Officers - Alexander Stafford MP**

The following officers were elected to the APPG. It was agreed that all officers would serve as Vice-Chair:

**Chair: Alexander Stafford MP**

Proposed: Baroness Masham; Seconded Lord Blencathra

**Vice-Chair: Lord Blencathra**

**Vice-Chair: Baroness Lister**

**Vice-Chair: Tracey Crouch MP**

**Vice-Chair: Lord Teverson**

**Vice-Chair: Lord McColl**

**Vice-Chair: Lord Curry**

**Vice-Chair: Lord Randall**

All Proposed by Alexander Stafford MP; Seconded Baroness Masham

### **Welcome and Introduction - Alexander Stafford MP**

- Alexander Stafford MP provided an introduction and overview of the aims of the APPG
- The National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) and Natural England (NE) have provided support to the APPG. NASP will act as Secretariat for the group

### **Terms of Reference - Alexander Stafford MP**

The following proposed Terms of Reference were presented to the group:

The primary focus for the APPG is on the physical health and mental wellbeing benefits to people of all ages that come from access to and connection with the natural environment.

1. To support the good health and wellbeing of constituents by improving their opportunities to access and experience their local natural environment i.e. addressing health prevention.
2. To support healthcare professionals to access local, high quality green care services through the system of social prescribing i.e. addressing health needs.
3. To help promote awareness and understanding of the physical health and mental wellbeing benefits to people of all ages, particularly children, that come from access to and connection with the natural environment.
4. To help meet the increasing demand for non-clinical health and social care services by increasing the scale and quality of green care activities available to people close to where they live.

The following changes to the Proposed Terms of Reference were suggested:

- A specific reference to marginalised groups to be added to Point 1 (e.g. ...to support the good health and wellbeing of constituents, in particular those from marginalised communities, by improving their opportunities...)

- A change in wording to encompass people with disabilities

**Pending these amendments, the Terms of Reference were agreed and adopted.**

#### **Programme of Work - James Sanderson, CEO, NASP**

- James Sanderson presented to the group on the background of social prescribing, and the work of NASP. In particular, the 6 'Products':
  - Social Prescribing Ambassadors
  - The Global Alliance
  - Clinical Champions
  - Thriving Communities
  - Academic Partners Collaborative
  - Innovation Accelerator
- The upcoming work programme for the APPG and themes for future meetings were presented:
  - 29 June - A review of the evidence
  - 19 October - Transforming delivery
  - 8 February - Building resilience in local communities
- The confirmed time and agenda for the next meeting in June will follow, it is currently scheduled for the afternoon

#### **Reflections and Comments - Members**

- Lord Randall provided information on projects including the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and environmental projects for asylum seekers, and offered to act as point of contact
- Baroness Scott noted social prescribing has been a success in Suffolk, and suggested that the group look at potential 'added value' as parliamentarians; it was also suggested the group be cautious/sensitive around framing social prescribing against medical prescribing. This was agreed by the Chair and suggested a standing point be added to forthcoming meeting agendas to cover what opportunities there are for parliamentarians to support the group's work
- Alexander Stafford MP has started the process for scheduling a Westminster Hall Debate; it was suggested that peers should do the same in the House of Lords on behalf of the APPG
- Baroness Watkins has a background as a Mental Health Nurse, and recommended that a Community Mental Health Nurse come to talk to the group
- Baroness Lister highlighted the importance of health inequality being threaded through all the work of the group
- Lord Blencathra noted that the work of the group should not become too narrow - a key point is that social prescribing and the natural environment can benefit everybody

- Natural England have recently launched a new Countryside Code (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>)
- Lord Best noted other bodies - a commission with Oxford University on Creating Healthy Cities, and also Sustrans who provide regular reports

**Next meeting - 29th June, 3pm**