

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Complex Needs & Dual Diagnosis

Activity during 2024

About the APPG

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on complex needs and dual diagnosis was established in 2007 in recognition of the fact that people seeking help often have a number of over-lapping needs including problems around access to housing, social care, unemployment services, mental health provision or substance misuse support. In most cases each service is administered by separate service providers. The result is that people with multiple or complex needs fall through the gaps in service provision. Providers recognise that the best model for helping those individuals with a dual diagnosis or complex needs is through an integrated service that aims to address all of the issues they face.

Secretariat is provided by Turning Point, a large social enterprise which specialises in working with people with complex needs. The APPG has a network of nearly 300 members including the VCSE, academia, local government, the NHS, regulatory bodies and individual service users/family members. The work of the APPG is diverse and has covered issues such as mental health and the criminal justice system; looked after children and care leavers; sex workers; legal highs; veterans and joining up policy on multiple needs from the perspective of those on the frontline. The group undertakes inquiries into key topics, gathering written and oral evidence from the network and undertaking surveys of service users and professionals.

Meetings held during 2024

- **In May 2024, we met to discuss current state of play regarding mental health provision for young people.**
 - We heard from; Rose, who spoke about her own experiences navigating support as a young person in care as well as her current role as a Young Partner at Peer Power Youth.
 - Charly Dale, Head of Health Services at New Horizon Youth Centre spoke about the support offer at New Horizon's as well as the challenges faced within the sector.
 - Iryna Pona, Head of Youth Research, Policy and Evaluation at The Children's Society spoke about the Children at the Table coalition and the policy context surrounding support for young people with complex needs and key points leading up to the general election.
- **In March 2024, the APPG held a meeting on improving support for people with coexisting mental health and substance use needs.**

- Such discussion was aided by guest speakers: Heather McGinn, who spoke about her own experiences and struggles with mental health and alcohol use and detail regarding the support available.
- Hauwa Onifade, Senior Forensic Psychologist at Turning Point & Assistant Professor at University of Nottingham who shared her insight as a practitioner working within Turning Point’s substance use service in Leicestershire including key challenges and practices which seek to address them.
- Dylan Kerr – Policy Lead at the Department of Health and Social Care, who provided an outline of the government’s upcoming Joint Action Plan, what it seeks to achieve, and how.

Reports and essays

Jane Stevenson – Chair of the APPG on Complex Needs – contributed an essay to MEAM’s (Making Every Adult Matter) [Future Focus](#) essay collection on the topic of improving support for people with coexisting mental health and substance use needs, which is due to be published shortly.

The essay examined progress against the aims of the government’s drug strategy, ‘From Harm to Hope’, which set to transform the system so that providing trauma informed care becomes the norm, and complex needs are recognised and responded to, reducing the number of people who fall through the gaps between services. In particular, the essay looked at progress on the following aims:

- Exploring opportunities for better commissioning for locally joined-up service provision between specialist mental health services and substance misuse services
- Ensuring ICS development includes leadership on drugs and alcohol to integrate physical and mental health care with substance misuse services.
- Improving access to treatment and support for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage

Government investment has enabled the substance use sector to increase the number of treatment places and to grow and develop the workforce, including practitioners with particularly expertise on supporting people with co-existing substance use and mental health issues, and we are starting to see the number of people accessing support increase which is positive; however, this process will take time. It is important that the government continues the positive work in this area, being mindful of the inevitable lag between initial investment and improvement in outcomes. It is also important that the government supports ICSs in developing local and effective joined-up provision between mental health and substance use services.

Income and Expenditure

The APPG received no income above £1,500 in this year.

The APPG Network

The APPG has a highly engaged network of nearly 300 expert members including frontline workers, VCSE organisations, academia, police, local government, the NHS, regulatory bodies and individual service users/family members. Organisations represented include:

Council for Disabled Children	Mental Health Act Commission
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Coventry City Council	Mental Health Foundation
Abingdon Hospital	Middlesex University
Action on Addiction	Mind
Addaction	Mind Brighton and Hove
Addicts 4 Addicts	NACRO
Adfam	National Appropriate Adult Network
Advance UK	National Federation of Women's Institutes
Agenda	National Probation Service
Angelus Foundation	National Voices
Single Homelessness Project	NCVO
Association of Mental Health Providers	Nelson Trust
Association for Young Peoples Health	NHS Central Manchester CCG
AVA Project	NHS Confederation
BAC O'Connor Centre	NHS South West/DH South West
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust	NICE
Beresford Project	Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service
Big Lottery Fund	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare
Blenheim	Opportunity Nottingham
Blind Veterans	Oxford Brookes University
BMA	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
Bradford District CCG	Passage
Brent Council	Pathway
Broadway Lodge	PHE London
Build on Belief	PHE West Midlands
CAIS Wales	Phoenix Futures
Camden & Islington Mental Health Foundation Trust	Policy Exchange
Camden and Islington Foundation Trust	PORSCH
Carers in Hertfordshire	Public Health England
Castle Craig Hospital	RCPsych
Centre for Better Health	Real Insight
Centre for Mental Health	Recovery Focus
Centrepont	Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners Trust
Clinks	Research Assistant to Professor Charlie Brooker/PhD student
CNWL Foundation Trust	Responsible Gambling Strategy Board
Coaching Inside and Out	Rethink Mental Illness
COBSEO	Revolving Doors
Collaborate	RMBI Care
Collective Voice	Royal British Legion
Combat Stress	Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
Community Links	Shared Lives Plus
Contact a Family	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

CQC	Southampton University
Crisis	St Giles Trust
DASCT/NHS Bolton	St Mungo's
DCLG	St Mungo's Broadway
Demos	Standing Together
Department of Health	Step Together Volunteering
Devon and Cornwall Police	Stockton Borough Council
Disability Rights UK	Stonewall
Drug & Alcohol Findings	Substance Misuse Solutions
Drugscope	Surrey County Council
Dual Diagnosis Anonymous UK	Sussex Oakleaf
Dual Diagnosis Journal	Sutton Council
Electoral Reform Society	Thames Valley Probation Service
Federation of Drug and Alcohol Professionals	The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
Fulfilling Lives, Islington & Camden	The Edge Recovery Café Cambridge
Groundswell	The Hidden Homeless
Health in Justice	The Royal College of Psychiatrists
Homeless Link	Tom Harrison House
Hopkinson House Complex Needs Hostel	TONIC Consultants
Housing care and support Journal	Tower Hamlets Link Worker Service
Imagine Mental Health	Tri-borough Public Health Team
IPPR	Turning Point
IPRI BP	University of Huddersfield
Kent County Council	University of Southampton
KeyRing	University of Southampton
Lankelly Chase	University of York
LBBD	User Voice
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	VODG
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	Voices of Stoke
London Borough of Sutton	Voluntary Action Islington
London Clinical Senate	Wakefield and 5 Towns Recovery College
Loughborough University	Wave Trust
LSE	Westminster Dual Diagnosis Service
MacMillan	Women's Aid
Manchester MH and Social Care Trust	WY-FI Project
MCCH	YJB
MEAM	York House GP Surgery
Mencap	YoungMinds