

Policy Connect and All-Party Parliamentary Health Group Summary of Activities 2025

Events Summary

November 2024

APPG for Health Hosts Launch of New House of Lords Select Committee on Food, diet and Obesity

Chair: Baroness Walmsley (chair HOL Food, diet and obesity select committee)

Speakers:

- **Sheila Dillon**, Presenter of BBC Radio 4's The Food Programme.
- **Dr Simon Opher MP**, Chair of the Health APPG.
- **Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy**, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England.
- **Alice Wiseman**, Vice President, Association of Directors of Public Health.
- **Mary Glindon MP**, Chair of the Obesity APPG.
- **Anisah**, Activist, Bite Back

In partnership with the House of Lords Select Committee, the Health APPG co-hosted the launch of the House of Lords' Food, Diet and Obesity Committee's report, *Recipe for Health: A Plan to Fix Our Broken Food System*. The event brought together experts and stakeholders to explore how the Government can take a long-term, preventative approach to health by reforming the UK's food environment. Discussions focused on the health impacts of ultra-processed and high fat, salt and sugar foods, as well as the role of inequality, cost of living, and commercial marketing in shaping poor diets. Speakers called for a comprehensive strategy to support healthier choices and reduce obesity positioning food system reform as a key element of improving national health and protecting the NHS.

February 2025

The Reinvention of Prevention: How to Fund and Finance a Pivot to a Prevention-First Healthcare System

Chair: Lord Bethell

Speakers:

- **Dr Simon Opher MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Health Group
- **Dr Simon Radford**- Director, Policy and Programming, Milken Institute
- **Esther Krofah**- Executive Vice President, Health, Milken Institute

The APPG for Health in partnership with the Milken Institute to host a parliamentary reception marking the launch of *The Reinvention of Prevention: How to Fund and Finance a Pivot to a Prevention-First Healthcare System*. The event explored how healthcare systems can shift from reactive, hospital-based models to proactive, community-driven prevention. The report outlines practical strategies for sustainable investment in prevention and highlights innovative financing approaches to support long-term health outcomes. Discussions centred on the growing economic and clinical burden of preventable disease and emphasised the importance of cross-sector collaboration and system-wide leadership to embed prevention at the heart of health policy.

Autism and Suicide Prevention

Chair: Peter Swallow MP

Speakers included:

- **Professor Sir Simon Baron-Cohen**, University of Cambridge
- **Dr Rachel Moseley**, Bournemouth University
- **Baroness Luciana Berger** (leading a review for Labour into mental health and prevention)
- **Lisa Wolff**, Mum and advocate for Abbi Smith, Forever 26
- **Tom Purser**, CEO, The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge

The APPG for Health partnered with The Autism Centre for Excellence at Cambridge to host the parliamentary launch of new research on autism and suicide prevention. With autistic people identified as a priority group in the Government’s Suicide Prevention Strategy, the event brought together autistic individuals, researchers, and service leaders to explore practical, evidence-based approaches to reducing harm and preventing suicide within the autistic community ahead of the 2026 national strategy update

March 2025

Sustainable NHS Mandate

Chair: Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

Speakers included:

- **Caitriona Callan** – GP and Clinical Fellow -The Health Foundation.
- **Fiona Adshead** – Chair, Sustainable Healthcare Coalition
- **Chris Naylor** – Senior Fellow , Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
- **Professor Shahin Rahimifard** – Professor of Sustainable Engineering - Loughborough University
- **Liam Hogg** – Head of Waste and Resources -NHS England.
- **Baroness Natalie Bennett**

The APPG for Health and the APPG for Sustainable Resource Management (APSRG) co-hosted a roundtable as part of Policy Connect’s 2024 Sustainable Healthcare Summit, focusing on how sustainability can be embedded in forthcoming NHS reforms.

Held ahead of the new NHS mandate, the discussion explored how circular economy principles can support better care, financial efficiency, and environmental outcomes. Participants highlighted the need for cultural change within the NHS and stronger government leadership to scale sustainable practices across the system. The event reinforced the role of sustainability as a core pillar of NHS transformation.

Empowering ICBs: Delivering 700,000 Urgent NHS Dental Appointments

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP and Yasmin Qureshi MP

Speaker:

- **Ian Holmes**, Director of Strategy and Partnerships at West Yorkshire ICB, and Andrew Hobson, Deputy Director for Dental Commissioning for Yorkshire and Humber
- **Dr Ed Garratt**, CEO of Suffolk and North East Essex ICB
- **Ben Squires**, Director of Primary Care at Greater Manchester ICB, and Stuart Allan, Chair of the Greater Manchester Federation of Local Dental Committees
- **Mark Green**, BDA General Dental Practice Committee executive and urgent care dentist, Yorkshire

The APPG for Health and the APPG for Dentistry & Oral Health held a joint online discussion on how Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) will implement the Government's pledge to deliver 700,000 additional urgent dental appointments. ICB leaders shared their approaches to delivering these appointments and reflected on the broader implications for access to dental care. The session also explored what a long-term, sustainable solution for NHS dentistry might look like, amid growing pressures on the system and unmet patient need.

Strengthening Primary Care: A Global Dialogue at the APHG

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speaker:

- **Ashley Dalton MP**- Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Public Health and Prevention

The APPG for Health hosted a high-level roundtable on strengthening primary care, bringing together international health ministers, UK policymakers, and global experts during the UK-African Health Summit. The session welcomed distinguished health ministers from Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda alongside experts across Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, India, New Zealand, and Japan. In partnership with King's College London and the Institute of Development Studies, the discussion explored international models of primary healthcare, with insights from health leaders across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Speakers highlighted the importance of global collaboration in building resilient, community-based health systems. The event reinforced the value of learning from international best practice to inform the UK's own approach to primary care transformation.

April 2025

Shifting Care from Hospital to Communities – Realising the NHS Fit for the Future Vision

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speaker:

- **Dr Sarah Felix**, Head of Engagement at the Department of Health and Social Care
- **William Pett**, Head of Policy, Public Affairs & Research, Healthwatch England
- **Dr Davina Deniszczyc**, Charity and Medical Director, Nuffield Health
- **Dr John Dean**, Clinical Director, Royal College of Physicians
- **Professor Mel Hughes**, Bournemouth University
- **David Wells**, Chief Executive, Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)

- **Dr Antony Rapisarda**, Founder and CEO OrthoDx
- **Dr Leyla Hannbeck**, CEO of the **Independent Pharmacies** Association
- **Dr Tim Reed**, **Orchard Medical Practice**.

As part of its event series on the NHS 10-Year Healthcare Plan, the APPG for Health hosted a parliamentary discussion on the future of community-based care in the UK.

The session explored how the NHS can shift from hospital-centred models to more integrated, localised approaches to care. Key themes included the need for cross-sector collaboration, addressing workforce pressures, and overcoming system fragmentation. Attendees also engaged directly with DHSC officials to share reflections on how community-led models can be successfully scaled. The discussion contributed to a set of policy recommendations the APPG will share with government to help shape future delivery of community-based healthcare.

May 2025

Health and care funding and architecture – The King’s Fund

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speakers:

- **Siva Anandaciva**, Director of Policy, Events and Partnerships
- **Hugh Alderwick**, Director of Policy, the Health Foundation
- **Dr Sally Gainsbury**, Senior Policy Analyst, Nuffield Trust

The APPG for Health in collaboration with leading health think tanks – The King’s Fund, Nuffield Trust, and the Health Foundation, launched a tailored three-part parliamentary briefing series to support parliamentarians in their health policy work. The first session, delivered by The King’s Fund, focused on NHS and social care funding and system architecture. It explored how England’s health system is structured, the role of Integrated Care Systems, and current financial pressures. The series is designed to strengthen parliamentarians’ understanding of key issues in health and care policy.

Launch Primary Care inquiry scoping session

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP, Jess Brown-Fuller MP, Sadik Al-Hassan MP, Lord Kamall

Speaker :

- **Professor Mariachiara Di Cesare** - Director, Institute of Public Health and Wellbeing, University of Essex
- **Hayley Blackburn** - Director of Public Affairs, Assura
- **Professor Kamila Hawthorne** - President, Royal College of GP's
- **Malcolm Harrison** - Chief Executive, Company Chemists Association
- **Dr Leyla Hannbeck** - Chief Executive, Independent Pharmacy Association
- **Sharon Brennan** - Director of Policy, National Voices
- **Patricia Miller OBE** - Chief Executive, NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board
- **Dr Veline Lesperance** - Senior Clinical Advisor and GP, NHS Race and Health Observatory
- **Shawn Charlwood** - Former BDA Chair, NHS Dentist and Board Member, British Dental Association (BDA)
- **William Pett** - Head of Policy, Public Affairs and Research, Healthwatch England

This year, the APPG for Health launched a major cross-party inquiry into improving access to primary care services, in partnership with University of Essex and Assura. The inquiry aims to develop long-term, evidence-based policy recommendations to address rising demand, workforce shortages, and widening health inequalities in primary care. Focusing on general practice, pharmacy, dental, and optometry services, the inquiry examines how political, financial, and structural challenges have impacted equitable access and patient trust. Through engagement with stakeholders across sectors, the inquiry will feed into the Government's 10-Year NHS Plan and explore practical reforms to improve sustainability, service integration, and patient experience across the system.

Joined Up Acquired Brain Injury Data for Better Care

Chair: Sir John Hayes MP

Speaker :

- **Chloe Hayward**, Executive Director, United Kingdom Acquired Brain Injury Forum.
- **Professor Reinhold Scherer**, Head of Department – Professor, University of Essex, School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering (CSEE).
- **Dr Ben Jones**, Senior Lecturer, University of Essex, School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Science.
- **Professor Andrew Bateman** Professor and Director NIHR Research Design Service, University of Essex, School of Health and Social Care.

Policy Connect convened a parliamentary roundtable exploring how better data integration can improve care and outcomes for people living with acquired brain injury (ABI). Despite ABI's significant personal and economic impact, current data systems remain fragmented across health, social care, education, and justice limiting long-term support and policy visibility. The discussion highlighted the urgent need for linked datasets, better cross-sector collaboration, and recognition of ABI within national health strategy. This session forms part of ongoing efforts to support a more data-driven, joined-up approach to ABI as part of the Government's wider 10-Year Health and Care Strategy.

June 2025

State of the nation's health (prevention, inequalities and the building blocks of health) – The Health Foundation

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speaker:

- **Jo Bibby**, Director of Health Joe Farrington-Douglas, Senior Policy Fellow at the Health Foundation
- **Sarah Scobie**, Deputy Director of Policy and Research, Nuffield Trust
- **David Buck**, Senior Fellow, The King's Fund

As part of a collaborative series hosted with Policy Connect and leading health think tanks, the APPG for Health welcomed the Health Foundation for a deep dive into the state of the UK's health. This session explored trends in life expectancy, widening health inequalities, and the broader social determinants that shape health outcomes such as housing, employment, and income. The discussion also examined policy solutions to improve population health, including the role of prevention, the Government's Health Mission, and the potential of devolved approaches.

Cell and Gene Collective's new policy report, *Tomorrow's Science, Today's NHS*

Chair: Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

Speakers:

- **Sarah Woolnough** – Kings Fund
- **Andrew Hollingsworth**- Vertex

The APPG for Health supported the launch of the Cell & Gene Collective's *Tomorrow's Science, Today's NHS* report, which outlines key policy recommendations to improve patient access to cell and gene therapies (CGTs) and position the UK as a global leader in this field.

The event highlighted the need for systemic reforms across value assessment, reimbursement, and infrastructure readiness, and proposed the creation of a dedicated Ministerial lead for CGTs. Stakeholders from Parliament, industry, and patient groups discussed how to unlock the potential of these transformative treatments within the NHS.

General practice and dentistry – Nuffield Trust

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speaker:

- **Dr Becks Fisher**, Director of Research and Policy, Nuffield Trust. She will be joined by:
- **Beccy Baird**, Senior Fellow, The King's Fund
- **Dr Luisa Pettigrew**, Senior Policy Fellow, The Health Foundation

As part of a three-part parliamentary briefing series with leading health think tanks, the final session delivered with the Nuffield Trust examined the current state of general practice and NHS dentistry. The session explored workforce challenges, funding inequalities, shifting patterns in patient access, and declining public satisfaction. In dentistry, speakers highlighted persistent access issues and the long-term impact of contractual and funding constraints. Attendees considered major policy questions around the GP partnership model and the future of NHS dental provision as part of wider reforms to community-based care.

Attune Mental Health Research for Young People

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speaker:

- **Professor Kamaldeep Bhui**- Department of Psychiatry University of Oxford
- **Professor Eunice Ma**, University of Surrey
- **Professor Anna Mankee-Williams**, Falmouth University
- **Srhya Lalh** – young person
- **Alex Coulter**, Director National Centre of Creative Health
- **Sarah Brown**- Head of Children, Young People & Perinatal Mental Health NHS England
- **Sandra Booth**, Council for Higher Education in Art and Design
- **Leena Haque**, Senior UX designer, artist and inclusive design strategist

The APPG for Health in partnership with the University of Oxford hosted a parliamentary roundtable showcasing early findings from the ATTUNE research programme, a cross-council initiative led by the University of Oxford exploring how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) impact young people's mental health. The event highlighted how creativity, co-design, and lived experience can inform trauma-informed services and improve early support. Discussions focused on the role of general practice in early identification, the value of embedding trauma awareness in primary care, and how the built and cultural environment including green spaces and creative engagement contributes to youth wellbeing. Young participants and researchers presented co-designed tools, public health resources, and digital innovations, offering actionable policy insights rooted in young people's experiences.

July 2025

Sustainable Healthcare

Chair: Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

Speaker:

- **Toby Black**- Senior Vice President, Stericycle
- **Jacob Hayler** – Executive Director, Environmental Services Association
- **Dr Anne Wooldridge** – Chief Operating Officer, Independent Safety Services
- **Joseph Burton** – Sustainability Transformation Project Lead- UCL NHS Foundation Trust
- **Alexandra Hammond**- Director of Net Zero and Procurement NHS England
- **Fiona Garin Mc Donagh**- Vice President Strategic Marketing EMEA, BD

In partnership with Stericycle, the APPG for Health launched its Sustainable Healthcare series with a roundtable in the House of Lords examining clinical waste management in the NHS.

The session explored the environmental and financial pressures posed by clinical waste, and brought together policymakers, health providers, and industry leaders to discuss best practices, innovation, and policy levers to help the NHS meet its net zero goals. Discussions focused on how to embed sustainability into day-to-day healthcare operations without compromising patient safety or care quality.

September 2025

Policy Connect- Party Conference: What's Next on the Mental Health Agenda

Chair: Jasmin Adebisi- Senior Policy and Research Manager, Policy Connect

Speaker:

- **Dr Simon Opher MP**
- **Peter Swallow MP**
- **Professor Deborah James** (Manchester Metropolitan University),
- **Daniel Elkeles** - CEO, NHS Providers
- **Brian Dow** - CEO, Mental Health UK
- **Steve Gilbert OBE** - Co-Chair, NHS Race & Health Observatory Mental Health Working Group

In partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University, at the Labour Party Conference 2025, Policy Connect hosted a cross-sector breakfast discussion on the future of mental health policy, focusing on prevention, workforce, and achieving parity between mental and physical health. The session explored how the ambitions of the NHS 10-Year Health Plan can be delivered in practice, particularly the expansion of specialist services, early intervention, and co-designed reform. Key themes included addressing workforce shortages, improving access for young people, and embedding lived experience in service design. Panellists emphasised that meaningful progress depends on coordinated action to strengthen staffing, tackle inequalities, and ensure mental health is fully integrated across the system.

Higher Education Commission inquiry to examine how education and training pathways can support delivery of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan

Chair: Lord Phillip Norton and Kevin Mckenna MP, Professor Kathryn Mitchell

Speaker :

- **Professor Jane Harrington** – Vice Chancellor, University of Greenwich
- **Rebecca Patterson** – General Manager, Iheed
- **Daniel Green** – Policy Director, FAB
- **Daniel Pedley** – UK Government and Relations, Pearson

- **Professor Patrick Callaghan** – Professor of Mental Health Science, LSBU
- **Melanie Venables** – Director of Policy and Communications, PSA
- **Vanessa O'Donnell** - Head of Public Affairs, MillionPlus
- **Peter Kunzmann** – Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Royal College of Anaesthetists
- **Joe Fitzsimons** - Regional Lead Policy and Insights, ACCA
- **Ann French** – Dean, Teesside University

In partnership with the Higher Education Commission, the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group launched a new cross-party inquiry examining how education and training pathways can better support delivery of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan. The inquiry explores how strengthened collaboration between the health and education sectors can build a sustainable pipeline of NHS staff. It focuses on improving recruitment, retention, and workforce readiness through post-16 education reform, tackling barriers in funding, coordination, and institutional capacity. The inquiry will develop policy recommendations to ensure that education systems are equipped to meet future NHS service needs and workforce challenges.

APHG Ministerial Briefing with Stephen Kinnock MP, Minister of State for Social Care

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speaker :

- **Dr Peter Prinsley MP**
- **Lewis Atkinson MP**
- **Ben Coleman MP**
- **Dr Kamila Hawthorne**- Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners
- **Dr Claire Fuller**- National Medical Director NHS England
- **Dr Katie Bramall Steiner** Chair, BMA GPs Committee
- **Edward Scully**- Director of Primary and Community Care, DHSC

In September, the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group hosted a roundtable with Rebuild General Practice, bringing together GPs and Minister of State for Care, Stephen Kinnock MP, to discuss the Government's NHS 10-Year Health Plan. The session provided a platform for frontline practitioners to share their experiences, challenges, and priorities for the future of general practice, including workforce pressures, patient access, and sustainable service delivery. The discussion helped inform ongoing policy thinking around how to effectively support primary care and general practice reform.

October 2025

Shifting from Analogue to Digital Systems in the NHS

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP,

Speakers:

- **Professor Zoheir Sabeur**, Professor of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Bournemouth University
- **Colin Edmondson**, Director of Commercial Excellence Strategy, BD
- **Melanie Venables**, Director of Policy and Communications, Professional Standards Authority
- **Professor David Strain**, Chair, BMA Board of Science

The APPG for Health hosted a parliamentary roundtable to explore the transition from analogue to digital systems within the NHS – one of the key shifts proposed to make the health service “fit for the future.”

The discussion brought together experts from healthcare, academia, industry, and regulation to consider both the opportunities and challenges of digital innovation. Key themes included the need for improved digital infrastructure, safeguarding patient safety in AI adoption, ensuring high-quality training data, and balancing innovation with appropriate regulation.

The event underlined the importance of embedding digital transformation in a way that enhances patient care, professional confidence, and health system resilience.

APHG Parliamentarian Breakfast

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP and Lord Bethell

Speakers:

- **Baroness Ritchie**
- **Lord Chris Rennard**
- **Sojan Joseph MP**
- **Kevin McKenna MP**
- **Lewis Atkinson MP**
- **Cat Eccles MP**
- **Jim Dickson MP**
- **Lord Nick Markham CBE**
- **Colin Edmondson**- Director Commercial Strategy UKI- BD
- **Gregory Quinn** Director of Public Policy- BD

The APPG for Health, in partnership with BD, hosted a Parliamentarian Breakfast in the House of Lords to explore how health-focused APPGs can support the delivery of the Government’s 10-Year Health Plan.

Co-chaired by Dr Simon Opher MP and Lord Bethell, the informal session brought together cross-party parliamentarians to discuss shared priorities in health policy. This marked the first in a planned quarterly series designed to strengthen collaboration across Parliament on key health system challenges.

Improving Access to Primary care Inquiry: Evidence session 1

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP and Lord Kamall

- **William Pett**, Head of Policy, Public Affairs and Research, Healthwatch England
- **Dr Emily T. Murray**, Director, Centre for Coastal Communities, Institute for Public Health, University of Essex
- **Tim Clarke**, Director, Accessible Waterways Association CIC
- **John Ford**, Director, Health Equity Evidence Centre
- **Shawn Charlwood**, NHS Dentist and Board Member
- **Robert Waterson**, Executive Dean of Health, Sport and Bioscience, University of East London

With special thanks to our APHG associate members & sponsors

Policy Connect and the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group will held its first evidence session for the improving access to primary care inquiry. Co-Chaired by Dr Simon Opher MP, Sadik Al-Hassan MP, Jess-Brown Fuller MP and Lord Kamall, this session will focus on gathering evidence to understand who cannot get timely appropriate first contact care and why?

November 2025

Life Sciences sector Plan

Chair: Sadik Al-Hassan MP and Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

Speakers:

- **David Lawson**- Director of Medical Technology and Innovation, DHSC
- **Joe Edwards** – Director of Competitiveness and Devolved Nations- ABPI
- **Greg Quinn**- Director of Public Policy - BD
- **James Bevan**- Head of National Policy and Programs -Boehringer Ingelheim
- **Rosalind Champion**- CEO, Academy of Medical Sciences

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Improving Access to Primary care Inquiry: Evidence session 2

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP and Jess- Brown Fuller MP

- **Dr Victoria Tzortziou-Brown**, Chair Elect, Royal College of GPs
- **Malcolm Harrison**, CEO, Company Chemist Association
- **Shiv Pabary**, Chair General Dental Practice Committee, BDA
- **Dr Peter Hampson**, Clinical and Policy Director, AOP
- **Dr Gaurav Gupta**, England GP committee Lead for premises, BMA
- **Professor Victoria Joffe**, Dean of Integrated Health and Care Partnerships, University of Essex
- **George Johnston**, Senior Policy and Delivery Manager, NHS Confederation

Policy Connect and the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group will held its second evidence session for the improving access to primary care inquiry. Co-Chaired by Dr Simon Opher MP, Sadik Al-Hassan MP, Jess-Brown Fuller MP and Lord Kamall, this session will focus on gathering evidence to understand how primary care commissioning, infrastructure and workforce can be reformed to ensure long-term sustainability, equitable access, and improved patient outcomes?

Standards for Ethics and Accessibility in Digital Creative Health

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speakers:

- Dr Oliver Mag Gingrich
- Claire Grant

With special thanks to our APHG associate members & sponsors

- Professor Dominik Havsteen-Franklin
- Natasha Trotman
- Daniel Hignell-Tully

The APPG for Health partnered with the University of Greenwich, Brunel University, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust to showcase findings from an arts and humanities research council (AHRC) funded Digital Creative Health project “PARTICIPATE”

The roundtable discussed recommendation to strengthen national access to Digital Creative Health using the arts to improve wellbeing through inclusive, ethical and accessible Digital participation.

December 2025

Sickness to Prevention: Delivering the Obesity Prevention Agenda Across Communities With special thanks to our APHG associate members & sponsors

Chair: Dr Simon Opher MP

Speakers:

- Dame Angela Eagle MP, Minister for Food Security and Rural Affairs
- Lauren Bowes Byatt (Nesta)
- Katharine Jenner, Executive Director, Obesity Health Alliance
- Professor Katherine Appleton, Professor In Psychology, Bournemouth University
- Professor David Strain, Chair of Board of Science, BMA
- Professor Christina Vogel, Professor in Food Policy, UCL
- Dr Sarah Rappaport, Head of Campaigns, Jamie Oliver's
- Peter Babudu, Executive Director, Impact on Urban Health
- Natasha Burgon (Department of Health and Social Care)

The APPG for Health is hosted a parliamentary briefing event held in partnership with the Obesity Health Alliance and Nesta to explore how deliver on the prevention agenda on Obesity outlined in the Governments 10-Year Health plan.

With the government signalling a “moonshot to end the obesity epidemic”, participants reflected on the prevention measures set out in the plan and considered what further action is needed to reduce obesity rates across the UK. Attendees heard from leading public health and policy experts, as well as young campaigners working to make their local environments healthier places to live.

Improving access to Primary Care, Evidence session 3

Co-chairs, Dr Simon Opher MP, Lord Kamall, Jess Brown-Fuller MP

Speakers:

- Matthew Payne, Catalyst, (Healthtech 1)
- Dr Jose Rodriguez, Consultant restorative dentistry (Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust)
- Professor Hatim Abdulhussein, Chief Executive (Health Innovation Kent Surrey Sussex)
- Daniel Hardiman-McCartney MBE, Clinical Adviser (The College of Optometrists)
- Robert Walker, Head of Health and Social care (techUK)
- Dr Thomas Oakley, CEO (Feedback Medical)

The APHG hosted its final evidence session on the ‘Access to Primary Care’ inquiry in Parliament. The discussion, chaired by Dr Simon Opher MP, Jess Brown-Fuller MP and Lord Kamall, invited various experts to give evidence regarding how digital transformation and integrated systems can be harnessed effectively to deliver better primary care.

Key insights from the discussion focused on the role of digital tools in improving access, tackling interoperability challenges across primary care, building public trust through transparent data governance, and ensuring the workforce is supported and upskilled to help patients navigate new models of care. Research and Inquiries

Research and Inquiries

Improving Access to primary care services

Inquiry Co-chairs: Dr Simon Opher MP, Sadik- Al Hassan MP, Jess Brown-Fuller MP and Lord Kamall

This year, the APPG for Health launched a major cross-party inquiry into improving access to primary care services, in partnership with University of Essex and Assura. The inquiry aims to develop long-term, evidence-based policy recommendations to address rising demand, workforce shortages, and widening health inequalities in primary care.

Focusing on general practice, pharmacy, dental, and optometry services, the inquiry examines how political, financial, and structural challenges have impacted equitable access and patient trust. Through engagement with stakeholders across sectors, the inquiry will feed into the Government's 10-Year NHS Plan and explore practical reforms to improve sustainability, service integration, and patient experience across the system. **More information about the inquiry and its steering group members can be found here:**

[New parliamentary inquiry aims to build cross-party consensus for improving access to primary care services | Policy Connect](#)

Higher Education Commission inquiry to examine how education and training pathways can support delivery of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan

The Higher Education Commission, the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group launched a new cross-party inquiry examining how education and training pathways can better support delivery of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.

The inquiry explores how strengthened collaboration between the health and education sectors can build a sustainable pipeline of NHS staff. It focuses on improving recruitment, retention, and workforce readiness through post-16 education reform, tackling barriers in funding, coordination, and institutional capacity.

The inquiry will develop policy recommendations to ensure that education systems are equipped to meet future NHS service needs and workforce challenges.

More information about the inquiry and its steering group members can be found here:

[Higher Education Commission inquiry to examine how education and training pathways can support delivery of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan | Policy Connect](#)

Policy Connect Sustainable Healthcare Series

Policy Connect, in partnership with the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Health and Sustainable Resources, is conducting an event and policy paper series to develop a robust and sustainable healthcare system that can improve public health while meeting environmental sustainability requirements.

The programme consists of three focussed parliamentary evidence sessions, taking forward key themes from Policy Connect's *Sustainable Healthcare Summit* and *Sustainable NHS Mandate* roundtable held in 2024 and 2025. Programme supporters, including parliamentarians, civil servants, health care sector leaders, industry and academics, will contribute to evidence sessions and the development of thematic policy papers. Event findings and papers will be drawn together into a final report to be launched in parliament.

Themes of the series:

- Sustainable waste management: Embedding effective waste management in hospitals and the community.
- Sustainable and resilient supply: Ensuring procurement, pathways and prescribing promote resilient and sustainable care.
- Remanufacturing & the circular economy: Developing infrastructure and practice for product reuse.

More information about this programme of work contact : jasmin.adebisi@policyconnect.org.uk

APHG Outputs

- Policy Connect and the APHG alongside its associate members had 9 Guardian and Media articles released.
- Policy Connect and the APHG responded to a number of consultations this year
- Policy Connect and the APHG were able to directly engage with several ministers and their teams