

# **APPG Smoking and Health Report Launch Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

**Held in** Terrace Dining Room B

**Hosted by:** Mary Kelly Foy MP

## **Parliamentary attendees:**

1. Bob Blackman MP
2. Mary Kelly Foy MP
3. Jim Dickson MP
4. Baroness Gillian Merron
5. Lord George Young

## **External speakers:**

- Sebastian Rees- Head of Health at the IPPR
- Sarah Woolnough- Chief Executive at the King's Fund
- Gillian and Wendy- speaking to their lived experience

## **External stakeholders from the following organisations also attended:**

- Action on Smoking and Health
- Cancer Research UK
- Association of Directors of Public Health
- University of Bath
- The London Tobacco Alliance
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Fresh and Balance
- The Health Foundation
- British Heart Foundation
- Mental Health Foundation
- British Medical Association
- Royal College of Physicians
- Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Collaborative
- UCL Tobacco and Alcohol Research Group
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- NHS Confederation
- Asthma + Lung
- Chartered Trading Standards Institute
- Humber and North Yorkshire Centre for Excellence

- University of Edinburgh
- Imperial College
- Local Government Association
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

#### Minutes from the event:

The event opened with comments from the APPG's Co-Chair, Bob Blackman MP, commenting on how far we have come with tobacco control legislation, but that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill does not mean that it is 'job done'. He outlined the need for a bold target on smoking and made the case for funding efforts to achieve this through a polluter pays levy.

Sarah Woolnough, Chief Executive of the King's Fund, spoke about the challenges of implementing a preventative approach to health, noting that many Governments had expressed this ambition. She spoke about how prevention is critical to achieving the Health Mission and that smoking plays a huge role in that.

Sebastian Rees from the IPPR spoke about how the compelling case that the Report makes on a polluter pays levy. Noting that the measure is "is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do."

Gillian and Wendy then made a powerful speech about their shared lived experience of battling tobacco addiction, only to go on and work to support others to quit.

The Minister, Gillian Merron, spoke- thanking Gillian and Wendy for their contribution and said that she had heard the message loud and clear that the job was not yet done. She said she looked forward to working with members of the APPG as the Tobacco and Vapes Bill comes to the House of Lords.

You can read the full report here: <https://ash.org.uk/resources/view/a-roadmap-to-a-smokefree-country-no-one-starts-everyone-stops-no-profit-in-tobacco>