

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar: Obesity 2012

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 7th February 2012

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, One Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Lord Walton of Detchant
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Supporting lasting behaviour change: advantages and limitations of taking a 'nudge' approach**
Baroness Neuberger, Chair, House of Lords Science and Technology Sub-Committee I
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.55 **Setting the context: obesity in the UK**
What does the latest data on obesity in the UK suggest about current levels of obesity and future trends? With recent OECD data showing that obesity rates in the UK are the highest in Europe, and that rates of obesity in England are increasing more quickly than in the rest of Europe, are Government messages about obesity getting through? How widespread is awareness of the health risks of obesity, and is this awareness being translated into action? Does more need to be done to make the link between obesity and specific illnesses, such as type 2 diabetes or breast cancer, and obesity and mortality, for example using a 'pack years' concept as used for smoking?
Professor Harry Rutter, National Obesity Observatory
Professor Klim McPherson, Visiting Professor of Public Health Epidemiology, Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Emeritus Fellow, New College, University of Oxford
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 - 10.45 **Addressing the obesogenic environment: the Responsibility Deal and beyond**
What more could be done to reduce obesity and to improve obesogenic environments where they exist? Does the Government's 'Call to Action' on obesity go far enough to encourage and enable people to adopt a healthier diet and to become more physically active? Is there a need for further regulation of the food and drink industry rather than a voluntary approach through the Responsibility Deal? What should be the priorities for the new National Ambition Review Group, and how should the Government ensure that a wide range of independent expertise is available to inform policymaking? With higher-calorie, energy-dense foods often cheaper than lower-calorie options, does more need to be done to address price barriers that may deter healthy eating, for example through a fat tax? In addition to wide-ranging approaches through information campaigns such as Change4Life, is there a need for more targeted interventions for specific groups, such as pregnant women? With the 'Call to Action' encouraging local authorities to use planning and transport strategies to tackle obesity, what are the challenges for local areas – particularly in a period of economic constraint? How should local Health and Wellbeing boards work alongside other stakeholders to develop a holistic response to the obesity crisis?
Dr Susan Jebb, Head of Diet and Population Health, MRC Human Nutrition Research
Bill Bartlett, Corporate Affairs Director, McCain Foods
Gordon Glenday, Head of Planning Policy and Regeneration, Waltham Forest Council
Professor Paul Gately, Carnegie Professor of Exercise and Obesity, Leeds Metropolitan University and Founder, MoreLife
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Lord Walton of Detchant
- 10.50 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Karen Lumley MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Body Image
- 11.15 - 11.45 **Obesity and clinical practice**
How effective is the GP's surgery as a place to motivate overweight and obese patients to lose weight, and could GPs do more beyond providing information on obesity?
Professor David Haslam, GP and Chair, National Obesity Forum and Bariatric Physician, Luton & Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 - 12.25 **Commissioning to tackle obesity at the local level: empowering schools and local communities**
With all local authorities expected to have shadow Health and Wellbeing Boards in place by April 2012, how are early implementers commissioning weight management services alongside the NHS? With constraints on public health spending, how are relevant services such as the National Child Measurement Programme being affected? Should there be a greater role for private service providers in delivering weight management services? How are commissioners working to engage the local community, for example through partnerships with schools, sports teams or local champions? How should programmes to reduce overweight and obesity be evaluated, and is there sufficient knowledge about obesity in local authorities and community organisations to be able to effectively deliver evidence-based weight management services? What is the latest evidence on take-up of school meals and links to child growth?
Councillor Dr Doug Naysmith, Member, Health and Overview Scrutiny Commission, Bristol City Council
Dr John Middleton, Director of Public Health, Sandwell NHS Primary Care Trust and Vice President, UK Faculty of Public Health
Zoe Hellman, Head of Dietetics and Health Policy, Weight Watchers UK
Dr Michael Nelson, Director of Research and Nutrition, School Food Trust and Children's Food Trust
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England: next steps for implementation**
Richard Cienicala, Deputy Director, Health and Wellbeing, Obesity Branch, Department of Health
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's closing remarks and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Karen Lumley MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Body Image
Lizzie Sayer, Senior Producer, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum