



Objectives of the Cross Party Group

Briefing No 2

CCROSS

PPARTY

GROUP

ON **D**RUG

AND **A**LCOHOL

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REDUCTION

Objectives of the Cross Party Group

Lord Ramsbotham, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, has agreed to chair the group during its inaugural period, and Mike Wood, Labour MP for Batley and Spen, has agreed to act as Secretary. Practitioners hope that four or five parliamentarians from all Parties will agree to act as Vice Chairs.

Group members will provide Parliamentarians with Parliamentary Questions, briefings for debates, views on legislation and proposals for policy initiatives.

The principal objectives of the groups' members are to:

- Inform and influence parliamentarians and the public on all issues relevant to the provision of drug and alcohol services to offenders;
- The law and its application and consequences;
- To promote best practice in the provision of drug and alcohol services, with the emphasis on quality rather than quantity;
- To promote strategies which would reduce dependency on drug and alcohol and therefore crime and health budgets;
- To promote the influence of practitioners' views in the development of policy;
- To provide parliamentarians with briefings on all pertinent issues;
- To campaign to ensure that available resources for drug and alcohol resources meet need;
- The dissemination of information and research on good practice;
- To foster thinking and new ideas in the drug and alcohol fields.