



Wednesday 23 June 2010

## **Hard-hitting report on Wheelchair Services launched in Parliament**

Health Minister Paul Burstow MP with campaigners, Baroness Thomas of Winchester and Robert Meadowcroft

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign today launched its hard-hitting new report, **Get Moving - the case for effective Wheelchair Services**, at an event in the Houses of Parliament hosted by All Party Parliamentary Group for Muscular Dystrophy Chair, Dave Anderson MP, and attended by over 90 families, supporters, clinicians and Parliamentarians from across the country.

Health Minister, Paul Burstow MP, spoke with campaigners at the event and will be responding in a House of Commons debate that Dave Anderson MP has secured on Monday 28 June.

The report's findings show that children and adults with muscle disease in England are forced to wait far too long, sometimes months and years, to receive the wheelchairs that are essential for their health and quality of life.

A lack of funding and understanding of neuromuscular conditions among NHS decision-makers often means that people with muscular dystrophy are denied the wheelchair that best suits their needs, or are forced to pay out of their own pocket.

Tracey Franklin, from Brough in Yorkshire, has had problems getting Wheelchair Services to provide wheelchairs for her 13-year-old son Jack who has Duchene muscular dystrophy. Tracey said:

When children grow out of wheelchairs it's exactly like wearing out a pair of trainers. My older son doesn't take the same shoe size as he did five years ago, so why would they expect Jack to take the same size wheelchair?

If children don't have the right wheelchair then their interaction with friends drops dramatically. They can easily get left behind and lose their confidence. It's like taking somebody's legs away from them.

The launch of the report in Parliament is a chance for campaigners to meet newly elected MPs and Peers and have their say on wheelchair provision.

For more information about the report and the launch, please get in touch:

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