

## Press release 16 February 2009 – for immediate release

### Now its official – homeopathy does work!

**Patients are routinely denied access to homeopathy** throughout the UK because the NHS has said that there is no evidence that it works. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety now has significant evidence that homeopathy, and a range of other traditional therapies do work ((for the full DOHSSPS report see:

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/complementary-alternative-medicine.htm>)

A project, run by 'Get Well UK' in Northern Ireland for over a year, has found that acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy, osteopathy, reflexology and aromatherapy can offer significant health improvements to NHS patients.

A total of 713 patients were referred by 9 GP practices in Belfast and Londonderry for treatment by local practitioners. After treatment, **81%** reported an improvement in their physical health and **79%** in their mental health. The majority of patients, **84%**, linked improvements in their health and wellbeing directly to the treatments they had received, and **94%** said they would recommend it to others with a similar condition.

Patients receiving homeopathic treatment reported an average **54%** improvement in their health and wellbeing. Other therapies reported similar results.

Boo Armstrong, founder of 'Get Well UK', says of the results: *"The results from this project speak for themselves - complementary therapies improve health and save money. These findings are consistent with other service evaluation from across the UK. A personalised health service will need protocols to include complementary therapies."*

The Alliance of Registered Homeopaths (ARH) has been campaigning for improved access to homeopathy via the NHS in the belief that homeopathy should not be restricted to people who can afford to pay privately for this treatment. Although a growing number of people are doing so, and have found homeopathy to be both effective and safe, the ARH has long recognised that large numbers of people cannot afford to do so.

Steve Scrutton, ARH Registrar, said that whilst every major political party is now advocating personal choice in health treatment, not one is offering patients the option of using homeopathy instead of conventional treatment. *"This DOH report provides ample evidence that the patients who took part in the project benefited, that the GP's were impressed with the results. It has also suggested there could be significant savings in both the cost of treatment, and the pressures on secondary health services"*.

The ARH is now calling on the NHS to extend this project to other parts of the UK.

**ENDS**

## CONTACTS FOR EDITORS

<p><b>Alliance of Registered Homeopaths</b> Millbrook, Millbrook Hill, Nutley East Sussex. TN22 3PJ Tel: 01825 714506 Email: <a href="mailto:info@a-r-h.org">info@a-r-h.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.a-r-h.org">www.a-r-h.org</a></p> <p><i>Registered Office</i></p>	<p><b>Steve Scrutton</b> <i>Registrar and Media Officer</i> Alliance of Registered Homeopaths. 15 Manitoba Close, Corby, Northamptonshire. NN18 9HX Tel: 01536 744520 Email: <a href="mailto:steve@a-r-h.org">steve@a-r-h.org</a></p>
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### THE ALLIANCE OF REGISTERED HOMEOPATHS INFORMATION FOR EDITORS

The Alliance of Registered Homeopaths (ARH) is a UK professional organisation that supports and promotes a high standard of safe, effective homeopathic practice. It currently represents over 700 practising homeopaths.

We are committed to:

- ensuring that quality homeopathy is available to all who wish to use it
- raising public awareness of the potential of homeopathic treatment
- encouraging a high standard of education for homeopaths
- supporting the ongoing professional development of our Members
- encouraging co-operation between our Members and other healthcare professionals, for the benefit of patients
- engaging in research, publishing and other activities that enhance our understanding of homeopathy
- acting as an information base for the general public.