



Briefing to Parliamentarians

March 2021

Brain Tumour Care – The Pathway to Excellence for All

Announcing the newly introduced ‘Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence Designation’ for NHS neuro-centres.



**Tessa Jowell
Centre of Excellence**

Tessa Jowell Centres of Excellence

The concentration of medical and research expertise in specialised centres and knowledge sharing among centres contributes to better outcomes, improved patient satisfaction and access to research for rare diseases and cancers. Therefore, The Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission (TJBCM) is identifying and highlighting centres that offer a high standard of care for patients with brain tumours by awarding the Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence designation. For patients, the Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence designation will provide confidence that they are receiving the highest standard of care and access to clinical research available through the NHS. For the staff in UK neuro-centres, it will provide national recognition of work that goes ‘above and beyond’ for patients. The awards represent a step change in the neuro-oncology landscape across the UK, acknowledging the specificity and complexity of brain tumours and accelerating and sustaining high-levels of brain tumour care and research.

The Tessa Jowell Centres of Excellence will form a world-class network of brain tumour treatment and research centres that: provide optimal care; share freely best practice standards; rapidly translate research knowledge into patient benefit; and thereby provide patients with access to the very best treatment available.

The TJBCM is in the final stages of appraising the 20 centres that have applied in the first round of applications and reviewers have been humbled by the enthusiasm and pride demonstrated by the centres in the services they offer in their respective centres. Led by Prof Kate Bushby, who lost her own husband to a brain tumour, Centres underwent a rigorous application process based on 120 written questions and virtual site visits with the core staff of each of the hospitals. This was further backed up by patient feedback from 1100 patients collected through the Brain Tumour Charity. In line with Tessa’s aspiration *“that cancer patients like me, can live well with cancer, not just be dying of it”* the reviewers paid special attention to neuro centre’s patient quality of life care and looked for a culture of kindness and respect. The successful centres will be publicly announced at the APPG on the 2nd of March.

During the APPG meeting we will hear from Prof Richard Gilbertson, Chair of TJBCM; Prof Kate Bushby, Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence Designation lead, and Dr Nicky Huskens, TJBCM Director who, backed by a committee of expert reviewers, have conducted the assessments. They will introduce the Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence designation and what this means for patients and their carers. They will officially announce and congratulate the centres that have obtained the status.



What’s next – The pathway to excellence for all

Designating centres will be an iterative process. TJBCM is extremely committed to help centres that were not successful first-time round or that have yet to apply, to obtain status as soon as possible so all patients can access the highest level of care, wherever they live. This is a top priority of the TJBCM and an important wish of Tessa and other patients: equality in access to treatment. All UK centres that applied demonstrated a safe level of service and distinct pockets of excellence from hard working and committed doctors and nurses. Encouragingly, the process has revealed that only modest support is needed by most centres to attain excellence in all areas of their care. This may be something as simple as implementing new ways of working within existing resources, accessing ways of working from other centres or may require more systematic investment. TJBCM is also launching an Academy to facilitate sharing of best practise between centres, enabling neuro-centres to build business cases to enhance their services. Support from local MPs will be crucial for the centres engaged in this process.

During the meeting, Richard, Kate and Nicky will highlight the plans for the academy and explain how MPs can get involved to help their Trust further enhance their care and obtain designation in the future.

Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission

TJBCM was founded to provide a national convening body for all stakeholders engaged in brain tumour research, treatment and patient care. Since its inception, the TJBCM has pursued its mission to unite professional, patient, charity and government groups to share information, and establish transformative programmes that will lead ultimately to a cure for brain tumours. Amongst its members are Brain Tumour Research, Cancer Research UK, The Brain Tumour Charity and Braintrust as well as representatives of the National Cancer Research Institute, Department of Health and Social Care and NHS.



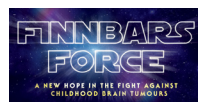
APPG on Brain Tumour's Objectives

To raise awareness of the issues facing the brain tumour community in order to improve research, diagnosis, information, support, treatment and care outcomes.

Secretariat

The charity Brain Tumour Research supported by Health Comms Consulting provides the Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group with contributions from its member Charities.

Brain Tumour Research Member Charities



Brain Tumour Research

Together we will find a cure

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