



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours

Minutes of the virtual meeting held at 09:00 on 2nd March 2021 via Zoom link

PRESENT

- **Parliamentarians** – Derek Thomas MP, Hillary Benn MP, Stephen Timms MP, Greg Smith MP, Baroness Masham, Lord Carlile, Holly Mumby-Croft MP
- **Secretariat** – Sue Farrington Smith (Brain Tumour Research), Hugh Adams (Brain Tumour Research)
- **Speakers** – Prof. Richard Gilbertson, Prof. Kate Bushby and Dr Nicky Huskens
- **Support** – Ben Rowden (HCC), Peter Hand (HCC)

APOLOGIES

- Thangam Debbonaire MP, Jonny Mercer MP, Dr Philippa Whitford MP,

PROCEEDINGS

1. WELCOME

Derek Thomas MP welcomed parliamentary colleagues and guests to the virtual 2021 meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours. The Secretariat provided an update on outcomes from the previous meeting:

1. APPG to secure a meeting with the transport minister.
2. APPG member to table Parliamentary Questions on the NIHR funding announcement.
3. APPG to meet with Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission
4. APPG to meet with Derek Thomas MP
5. APPG engagement with Parliamentarians who were present in December.

2. PRESENTATION BY TESSA JOWELL BRAIN CANCER MISSION

The section started with a short film from the TJBCM which outlined the purpose of the mission, its history and the launch of the centres of excellence.

Prof. Gilbertson then outlined the history of the mission, its key stakeholders and its key strategic objectives.

Prof. Bushby then introduced herself and the work which has been undertaken in establishing the Centres of Excellence. She then introduced Dr Huskens

Dr Huskens outlined the 1.5 year process of defining standards of excellence across major metrics, and measuring centres against these metrics. She explained that 20 centres applied for designation, which was backed up with patient feedback from over 1,000 patients. These centres had their applications peer reviewed, and virtual site visits were conducted.

Prof. Bushby then outlined the elements which centres were measured against:

1. Excellent treatment
2. Emphasis on patient quality of life
3. Offer clinical trial
4. Offer good training and development for staff
5. Excellence in brain tumour research



She later explained that every centre which has been designated has achieved an 'excellent' pass in the above areas. These 9 centres are:

1. Kings College London
2. Royal Marsden
3. UCL
4. Birmingham
5. Nottingham
6. Manchester
7. Leeds
8. Newcastle
9. Edinburgh

Prof. Bushby then outlined common characteristics of all chosen centres; they all had local champions, strong Trust support, seamless integration and strong research support.

Prof. Bushby then explained the next steps for the mission and its centres. Firstly, they want to support centres which didn't achieve designation and encourage them for future applications. Secondly, they want to build the Tessa Jowell Academy to share best practice and support services to reach the level of excellence required to be designated a centre.

In addition to this, the Mission intends to write a report to commissions about the additional support needed, as well as with the NHS Leadership Team and the APPG.

6. GROUP DISCUSSION

Derek Thomas invited Jess Mills to share her experience of her mother's work and reflections on the work being done to improve the lives of people with brain tumours.

A constituent of Holly Mumby-Croft MP spoke about her appreciation for the Centres of Excellence and the information provided at the meeting.

A further question was raised as to what centres would offer for post-treatment support for patients, with Prof. Bushby outlining that many centres are providing key support around physiotherapy, welfare support and seizures.

Lord Carlile asked what political strategy the TJBCM has. Prof. Gilbertson explained that there has been work with local MPs, Lord Bethell and that there is a strong ambition to see centres of excellence opened across all the devolved regions.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING, APPG ACTIONS AND AOB

The APPG agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with MPs who have centres in their constituencies, to secure their support in achieving the designation status. The Secretariat will identify the MPs in the 11 locations and provide an update at the next APPG meeting.

The group agreed that the next APPG meeting will be in May 2021.

Derek Thomas MP formally closed the meeting.