

Minutes

All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer

AGM and Chairs meeting

Monday 29th April, 4pm, Committee Room 12

Attendees:

Nic Dakin MP
Baroness Masham
Sharon Hodgson MP
Mark Tami MP
Colleen Fletcher MP
Karen Lee MP
Henry Smith MP
Thangam Debbonaire MP
Philippa Whitford MP

Other:

Ross McLaren, Office of Nic Dakin MP
Peter Murphy, Office of Albert Owen MP
Olly Parker, Secretariat
Lucy Prince, Secretariat
Rebekka Smiddy, Secretariat

1.	Welcome	5 mins
2.	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>The following MPs/Peers were re-elected as Officers with no objections from the Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nic Dakin MP (Chair) • Albert Owen MP (Vice Chair) • Mark Pritchard MP (Vice Chair) • David Tredinnick MP (Vice Chair) • John Baron MP (Vice Chair) • Ruth George MP (Vice Chair) • Baroness Morgan (Vice Chair) • Baroness Finlay (Treasurer) • Baroness Masham (Vice Chair) • Baroness Walmsley (Vice Chair) <p>Those in attendance were invited to become Officers of the APPGC. Colleen Fletcher MP also put herself forward to become an Officer, which was agreed by the group.</p>	10 mins
3.	<p>Accounts</p> <p>The Secretariat provided an overview of the APPG on Cancer accounts for the previous reporting year. The accounts were agreed by the group.</p> <p>The Secretariat also outlined the financial challenges of organising the Britain Against Cancer Conference. It was concluded that due to declining ticket sales and sponsorship it will not be possible to hold BAC in its current form in 2019. The group agreed that there is value in the APPGC having a set piece event, but the purpose and audience of the event needs to be reviewed.</p>	5 min

<p>4.</p>	<p>Updates from Chairs and Officers</p> <p>The Chair invited the Officers and Chairs to share updates on their activities and opportunities for joint working.</p> <p>Mark Tami (Chair, APPG on Stem Cell Transplantation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led an adjournment debate on Psychological support after cancer treatment earlier this year • Recently met with the Education Minister to discuss stem cell transplant to be included in the syllabus • The APPG is also working on expanding the pool of donors amongst BAME minorities <p>Sharon Hodgson (Chair for the APPG for Ovarian Cancer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently held a joint meeting with the APPG on Pancreatic Cancer on early diagnosis • Reminded the group that the 8th May is World Awareness Day for Ovarian Cancer. They will be asking MPs to wear white roses at PMQs to raise awareness for Ovarian Cancer. • SimPal campaign: The APPG are supporting this campaign, which aims to keep those living with cancer connected during their most challenging times. As part of this, the group are thinking of organising a drop-in event. • Sharon highlighted the following issues as priorities for the APPG on Ovarian Cancer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NHS Long-Term Plan ○ Prime Minister's targets of 75% of cancers receiving early diagnosis ○ Workforce <p>Karen Lee (Vice-Chair, APPG for Breast Cancer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding a Westminster Hall Debate on Local Healthcare in the East Midlands, where she will be raising the issue of workforce as a priority. • Particularly interested in lung cancer issues and thought there was a gap currently in terms of an APPG dedicated to this in parliament and asked for groups thoughts on this. The Secretariat mentioned to her that we work with Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation through the APPGC stakeholder group and offered to link them up with Karen Lee MP to discuss this further. <p>Henry Smith (Chair for APPG on Blood Cancer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group will be continuing to work to raise awareness of blood cancer and ensure that the ambitions set out in the NHS Long-term Plan are met. • Also continuing to focusing on workforce and innovative new treatments for blood cancer patients such as CAR-T therapy. <p>Thangam Debbonaire (Chair, APPG on Children, Teenagers and Young Adults with Cancer)</p>	<p>30 min</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group has recently been focused on the ‘Listen up! What matters to young cancer patients’ report, which is looking into patient experience for children and young people across the UK. • The inquiry’s recommendations on fertility and education about cancer for children are being well received and the group hope to continue engaging constructively with DHSC on these issues. <p>Philippa Whitford (Co-Chair, APPG on Breast Cancer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review on access to services, data collection. Philippa Whitford noted the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme data. • Phillipa highlighted that she will be tabling for a backbench debate on the financial impact of cancer this month so would appreciate members support for the debate. • Highlighted workforce shortages across the cancer pathway as a significant challenge, alongside issues of increased health inequalities in accessing treatment. <p>Nic Dakin (Chair, APPG on Cancer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted that the APPG is keen to engage with the new Minister, Seema Kennedy MP, and would be happy to try to co-ordinate future engagement with the Minister and APPG chairs on cancer. • Current priority is to engage with the Baroness Harding workforce review and ensure the cancer sector’s views are fully reflected in the final plan. The APPG is hoping to organise a roundtable event with Baroness Harding in June. • The APPG is also organising a joint event with the APPG on Universal Credit to discuss the experience of cancer patients when claiming the benefit. The secretariat will circulate details of this event to members once it has been confirmed. 	
5.	<p>APPGC Workplan 2019</p> <p>It was outlined by the Secretariat that the workplan was made in consultation with the 17 charities in the stakeholder group and the Chair.</p> <p>In order to deliver the biggest impact as a group, the APPGC will focus its activity on the following three priorities over the course of 2019. This does not mean the APPGC will not engage in activity that supports additional policy areas, reactive work, or campaigns beyond these three areas, however our proactive influencing activity will be dictated by these priorities.</p> <p>1. The cancer workforce</p> <p>Current pressures on the cancer workforce are the single biggest issue raised by the cancer sector as a whole. In 2019 the APPGC will continue to campaign on workforce issues to ensure the cancer workforce is fit for the future and can meet the changing needs of people affected by cancer. In particular, this activity will be focused on</p>	10 min

	<p>influencing the Baroness Harding Review which is seeking to develop a workforce implementation plan and making the case for workforce funding to be adequately addressed within the Comprehensive Spending Review.</p> <p>2. Ensuring delivery of commitments in the Long Term Plan and cancer strategy Following the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan in January, there is a key role for the APPGC to play in holding the Government and NHS England to account on the delivery of the commitments on cancer included in the plan, which includes the ambition to diagnose 75% of cancers at an early stage by 2028. With the current cancer strategy coming to an end in 2020, it will be important to understand how the LTP commitments will continue to support the current and future national strategies. The APPGC is keen to ensure that the ambitions in the LTP are delivered across all cancer types, including rarer and less survivable cancers.</p> <p>3. Addressing the wider needs of people living with and beyond cancer Whilst more people are living or surviving cancer than ever before, many patients experience a range of physical and emotional issues even after treatment has ended. Alongside this, cancer brings with it a real risk of financial hardship due to reduced income and increased costs. In 2019 the APPGC will campaign to ensure the holistic needs of cancer patients are recognised and addressed through the health and benefits systems.</p> <p>The APPG understands that for each of these priorities to be delivered, there needs to be recognition of i) the specific needs of less survivable cancers and ii) the need for robust, comprehensive and usable data to understand what progress is being made, and where challenges remain.</p> <p>The priorities of the APPGC were agreed upon by the Officers and echoed by other attendees (or APPG Chairs).</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Secretariat outlined the process of collecting OPQs from the Stakeholder Group, whereby the 17 organisations of the APPGC are asked to provide the Secretariat with suggested OPQs they wish tabled and these are circulated to APPGC Members, both for DWP and Health PQs. The Chair encouraged those in attendance to look out for these and table questions accordingly.</p> <p>Ross McLaren highlighted that the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust are holding a parliamentary drop in event on Wednesday 15th May, as part of Retinoblastoma Awareness Week 2019.</p> <p>The group paid tribute to the work of Lucy Prince on the secretariat, as this was her last APPGC meeting before moving on to a new role.</p>	10 mins