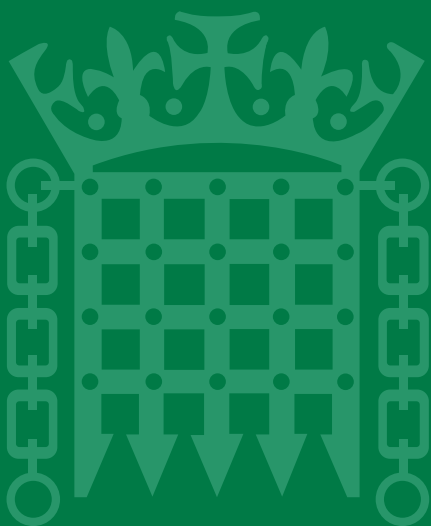




A New Vision for Cancer



This document outlines the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer's vision for the future of cancer services.

The NHS Cancer Plan was established in 2000 to deliver a cancer service comparable with others in Europe. It set out the first comprehensive national cancer programme for England, with ambitious goals to improve cancer care. Priorities and commitments up until 2010 were laid out in the Plan and substantial additional funding was allocated.

We are now over halfway through the life of the Cancer Plan and improvements in cancer care in England have been realised thanks to increased funding and the dedicated work of NHS staff. However, this additional funding is now coming to an end. Postcode prescribing of new cancer treatments is never out of the media. The Public Accounts Committee has called for a review of the current Cancer Plan and a pan-European report has shown that the UK still lags behind when it comes to spending on cancer drugs and access to new cancer treatments.

Clear shifts in the picture of cancer have already taken place since the original Cancer Plan was conceived, and things are set to change further, with the NHS undergoing fundamental re-organisations. The increasing prevalence and diagnosis of cancer; growing numbers of people living longer with cancer; changing demographics; the increasing importance of lifestyle, prevention and awareness; and the enormous potential of emerging new treatments, all demand a comprehensive assessment of cancer and related support services on the part of Government.

A new, comprehensive, cross departmental strategy for tackling cancer in the 21st century is urgently needed.



Dr Ian Gibson MP



John Baron MP



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Sign up to support the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer's New Vision for Cancer here:

www.appg-cancer.org.uk

A New Vision for Cancer

A new vision for cancer must be more than simply a revision of the current Cancer Plan. It must focus on bridging the gap between health and social care; education of professionals and the public; improved prevention, diagnosis and treatment; and research into genetics, the causes of, and treatments for, cancer. Crucially, a new vision must set out processes to produce national standards and entitlements that people with cancer can expect from health and social care services.



Cancer care can be further improved, whilst working within current NHS budgets, by tackling capacity and financial management issues. However, a full review of the long-term funding strategy for cancer is needed.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer intends to work with the Department of Health, across Government and throughout the political spectrum to ensure that people with cancer receive the treatment and support they need and that cancer remains a political priority.

- **More than one in three people in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer at some point during their lives.**
- **740 people in the UK are given a diagnosis of cancer every day; that's 270,000 cases a year.**
- **It is estimated that by 2020 an extra 100,000 people will be diagnosed with cancer each year in the UK.**
- **Whilst there have been marked improvements in cancer services in recent years, unacceptable delays remain in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.**



1

Entitlements for all people with cancer, to span health and social care

As more decisions are taken at a local level equality of care can only be provided by a set of national standards and entitlements. The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is perfectly placed to ensure that all people with cancer know what they are entitled to.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer therefore calls for NICE's role to be enhanced to enable it to produce guidance (both technology appraisals and clinical guidelines), with statutory force, on all aspects of cancer care and the entire patient journey. A detailed cost impact assessment should be part of the NICE process, which will inform the production of guidance to ensure they can be afforded and therefore implemented.

This guidance should consider:

- Access to clinically appropriate drugs.
- All newly licensed technologies to be appraised by NICE as a matter of course.
- A written diagnosis and the consistent provision of high quality information, communication and support for people with cancer, including a single key contact throughout the entire patient journey to provide assistance in navigating health, social care and financial support services.
- Treatment by a multi disciplinary team.
- Home-delivered care, wherever practical.
- Support, and personal care plans, for increased self management of cancer as it increasingly becomes a long term medical condition for many patients.
- Use of oral drugs in place of intravenous treatments wherever clinically appropriate.
- Provision of palliative care services, and supporting patients to die where they wish.
- Treatments designed to improve the quality of life of people with cancer. A new assessment process within NICE is needed to ensure effective guidance can be produced on quality of life treatments.

NICE must be fully supported to realise this wider remit. NICE should be an independent government department, removed from its current placement within the NHS.

2

The UK must continue to be a world leader in research into cancer

Research into the causes of, and possible treatments for, cancer is crucial to understanding cancer and improving the life chances of people with cancer now and in the future.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer therefore calls for:

- Increased information and options for people with cancer to take part in trials.
- Increased focus on clinical and scientific research.
- Support for research into rarer cancers and differing outcomes due to ethnicity, social background and other factors.



3

We must all work to prevent and better diagnose cancer

Many incidences of cancer may be preventable and many go undiagnosed for too long. Consistent work to prevent cancer and promote early diagnosis will give patients more treatment options and increase survival rates.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer therefore calls for:

- A robust tobacco strategy including education and cessation services.
- A full, evidence based public awareness and education programme on how people can alter their lifestyle to reduce risks.
- More public awareness campaigns on the prevention, and signs and symptoms, of cancer, particularly to tackle inequalities.
- Further research into environmental causal factors and prevention.
- An increased role for NICE in issuing advice on the prevention of cancer under its new role in Public Health.
- Better liaison between GPs and the Department of Health to ensure guidance on awareness and diagnosis is understood by all GPs.
- Training in medical, nursing and allied professions at all levels to incorporate a core curriculum in cancer diagnosis and management. To include training for non-specialists in the genetic risks of cancer; and in recognising, and acting upon, the key warning symptoms common to many cancers.
- Inclusion of information about cancer, clinical trials, smoking, accessing healthcare and health information into the citizenship programme within schools.
- Cancer to be included in the core school science curriculum.

4

Government must recognise the importance of cancer genetics

Research is increasing at a rapid rate into the genetic risks related to cancer and the related future possibilities for preventing and treating cancer.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer therefore calls for:

- Greater focus on the importance of genetics and cancer which will lead to more targeted tests and therapies therefore enabling better targeting of NHS resources.
- Genetic counselling to be provided to people considering and undergoing genetic testing and genetic information to be protected from insurance companies and employers.



The **All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer** was founded in 1998 to keep cancer at the top of the political agenda, and to ensure that policy-making remains patient-centred. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer is Chaired by Dr Ian Gibson MP (Labour), with Vice-Chairs John Baron MP (Conservative), Sandra Gidley MP (Liberal Democrat), Dr Richard Taylor MP (Independent) and Baroness Morgan of Drefelin (Labour).

The Secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer is provided by

*informing
understanding
supporting*



The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer is supported by a Stakeholders' Group comprising of representatives from: Breakthrough Breast Cancer (as Secretariat to the APPG on Breast Cancer), Cancer Black Care, Cancer Research UK, Macmillan Cancer Relief, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Men's Health Forum (as Secretariat to the APPG on Men's Health), and the NCRI.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer runs the annual Britain Against Cancer conference. Britain Against Cancer 2005 provided the opportunity to share ideas and formulate a longer term vision for cancer care and treatment in the UK. At the start of a new Parliament and five years into the Cancer Plan the conference asked 'what's next?' Many of the policy suggestions in this document have been developed from ideas at Britain Against Cancer. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer offers its sincere thanks to all those who participated in the discussions.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer would like to thank the supporters of the 2005 conference; AstraZeneca, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Ortho Biotech, Pfizer, Roche and sanofi-aventis. All have a medical expertise and commercial interest in cancer, but have had no involvement in the content of this document.

www.appg-cancer.org.uk