



All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer

April 2015

Dear Florence,

The APPGC have been busy over the last few months ensuring that cancer remains a top priority for the NHS and for parties across the political spectrum throughout the General Election period and beyond. In this edition:

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The most successful Britain Against Cancer yet

In December, the APPGC hosted the sixteenth annual Britain Against Cancer (BAC) conference, at Central Hall Westminster. The conference is now the largest one day conference on cancer in the UK, and we were delighted that our keynote speakers used the event to make a number of [new policy announcements](#).

This year, for the first time, the conference was addressed by the Chief Executive of the NHS – Simon Stevens, who used his speech to announce the development of a new Cancer Taskforce. The audience burst into applause in response to his announcement that one year cancer survival rates will be included in the Delivery Dashboard of the CCG Assurance Framework.



Keynote speeches

Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt gave an update on what the government is doing to deliver improvements in cancer care, Shadow Secretary of State Andy Burnham outlined Labour's 10 year plan for cancer care and we heard from the National Clinical Director for Cancer, Sean Duffy about inequalities, early diagnosis and problems with access to data.

You can [read more about the conference](#), including summaries of discussions in the breakout sessions. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making the day such a success – from attendees, exhibitors, and break-out facilitators – we couldn't have done it without you, and hope to see you at BAC 2015 on Tuesday 8th December.

Campaign success as one year cancer survival rates are included in Delivery Dashboard

The APPGC have campaigned for the last few years to ensure that cancer is embedded at the heart of the frameworks used to hold the NHS to account. In December, Simon Stevens announced that one year cancer survival rates, broken down by clinical commissioning group (CCG), would be included in the Delivery Dashboard of the CCG Assurance Framework from April. This is a huge campaigning success for the APPGC and could be transformational in improving cancer outcomes.

What is the Delivery Dashboard of the CCG Assurance Framework?

The CCG Assurance Framework is used by NHS England Local Area Teams to hold CCG's to account for delivering improvements in the health of their populations. As part of the Assurance Framework, CCG's are measured on a number of indicators. These make up the Delivery Dashboard. CCG's have told us that the Delivery Dashboard is the key framework they use when managing their performance. It is therefore crucial in influencing their priorities.

Why is the inclusion of one year survival rates important?

We believe that by putting individual CCG's cancer survival rates 'up in lights' at the top of the NHS accountability tree, CCG's will be encouraged to use local leadership to make improvements in early diagnosis – cancer's 'magic key' – which will drive up survival rates. It will also give NHS England the right tools to hold CCG's to account where they are underperforming. The new indicator on one year survival rates is the first disease specific indicator, and the first outcomes focused indicator to be included in the Delivery Dashboard.

This sends a strong signal of the priority given to cancer care in the NHS. What happens now?

In April the indicator will be included in the Delivery Dashboard for the first time. The APPGC will be writing to all CCG Chief Executives and all MPs to let them know their current one year survival rates, and to inform them about the changes. If you would like any more information on this please do not hesitate to get in touch with the APPGC Secretariat Rebecca Leech (rleech@macmillan.org.uk) along with the National Clinical Director for Cancer, Sean Duffy.

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APPGC publish progress report on Cancer across the Domains

The APPGC have published its latest report, [*Cancer across the Domains: a vision for 2020*](#), at Britain Against Cancer 2014. The report updates on progress since the 2013 report *Cancer across the Domains*, which looked at what the cancer priorities in the new NHS structure should be. The APPGC were delighted to receive a formal response to *Cancer across the Domains* from NHS England, and from Minister for Public Health, Jane Ellison. These responses, along with detailed research and engagement with key stakeholders, informed our assessment of progress since the publication of the 2013 report. The new report acknowledges the progress made on cancer across the NHS – notably on life expectancy and patient safety – but calls on the NHS to do more to improve early diagnosis and patient experience. To be sent a copy of the report please contact Rebecca Leech (rleech@macmillan.org.uk).



Parliament debates improving cancer outcomes

On 5th February, APPGC Chairman John Baron MP led a debate on the floor of the House on improving cancer outcomes. The debate was tabled in conjunction with the Chairmen of the other cancer-related All Party Parliamentary Groups and saw speeches from Sharon Hodgson, Chair of the Breast Cancer and Ovarian Cancer APPGs, and Rebecca Harris, Chair of the Brain Tumours APPG. Three of the APPGC Officers – John Baron, Paul Burstow and Grahame Morris – also spoke in the debate.

John Baron raised a number of important issues, including how the Government would use the new indicator on survival rates in the Delivery Dashboard to hold CCG's to account, about the future of the Cancer Patient Experience Survey and about problems with access to data.

Other MPs including John Glen, and Jack Lopresti also spoke during the debate. Jack Lopresti's account of his own experience of cancer was commended by all of the MPs who spoke after him, including the Minister and Shadow Minister.

At the end of the debate, the Minister commended the work of the APPGs, saying:

'In the 18 months or so that I have been a Minister their work has made a difference, and I do know of things that have happened because APPGs and individual Members championed them in this place. I congratulate them on their efforts today, and on other days and throughout the year, on this highly important topic.'

Responding to the cancer strategy

The APPGC were delighted to hear Simon Stevens announce a new [Taskforce](#) to develop a new cancer strategy at BAC 2014. This renewed strategic focus on cancer is essential if we are to realise our ambition of having the best cancer outcomes in Europe.

The APPGC responded to the Taskforce's first Call for Evidence, reiterating a number of the recommendations set out in *Cancer across the Domains: a vision for 2020*. [Read our submission](#).

Meeting with the Chair of the Cancer Taskforce

The APPGC invited the Chair of the Cancer Taskforce, Harpal Kumar (CEO of Cancer Research UK) to address the Group on 9th March. This event provided an opportunity for the cancer community to hear an update on the cancer strategy and to discuss priorities following the first call for evidence in February. Topics covered included survival rates, patient experience, access to treatment, and research. If you would like any more information on the meeting please get in touch with the APPGC Secretariat Rebecca Leech (rleech@macmillan.org.uk)

Next time...

This is the final APPGC newsletter of this Parliament. The next newsletter will be sent out when the Group is re-formed following the General Election. For any information on the Group's work, or how to join, please contact Rebecca Leech (rleech@macmillan.org.uk).

Kind regards,
Rebecca Leech

Secretariat to the APPG on Cancer
www.appg-cancer.org.uk

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