

**ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR BLADDER AND
BOWEL CONTINENCE CARE**

VIRTUAL MEETING

3.00 – 4.30PM - TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2021

MINUTES

Attendees:

Parliamentarians:

Rosie Cooper MP (Lab West Lancashire)

Dawn Butler MP (Lab Brent Central)

Sarah Jones MP (Lab Croydon Central)

Apsana Begum MP (Lab Popular and Limehouse)

Sharon Hodgson MP (Lab Washington and Sunderland West)

APPG Secretariat:

Tracy Stewart

Helen Newey

Pat Murtagh

APPG clinicians and invitees:

Prof Charles Knowles

Sharon Eustice

June Rogers MBE

Wendy Colley OBE

Jacq Emkes, Patient Advocate

Charlie Podschies, Maternity and Women's Health Policy team, NHSE and NHSI

Janice Rymer, Consultant Gynaecologist, National Specialty Advisor for Gynaecology for NHSE/NHSI

Kevin Hodges, Patients Industry Professional Forum (PIPs) stoma group

Rosie Cooper MP

Welcomed all. She pointed out that recent parliamentary questions on continence care had revealed as follows:

- There has been no assessment of adherence to the Excellence in Continence Care Guidelines (EICC).
- The National Bladder and Bowel Project (NBBP) are currently supporting a study to establish the impact of COVID on continence services
- No current plans to incorporate the EICC guidelines into the work of the NBBP but that the NBBP will enhance the guidelines.
- No central information on the Clinical Commissioning Groups who have incorporated the EICC guidelines.

Prof Charles Knowles, Professor of Surgery & Hon Cons, Colorectal surgeon, Barts Health NHS Trust

- A Joint Society Report on UK Pelvic Floor Services, is due to be published soon, (*funded by Metronic but with no editorial influence*). The report looks at the opportunity to improve future patient care and pelvic floor services post pandemic.
- Some 30 authors have contributed and the report is badged with every Society.
- Six chapters: *technology and patient care; consistent appropriate and expert patient care; pelvic floor procedures outside the operating theatre; patient experience; novel approaches and partnerships, engaging and education patients and health professionals.*
- The report makes many references to the Excellence in Continence Care Guidelines
- Recommendations to be sent to stakeholders includes: the need for funding community continence services, professional training and a national campaign to address the taboo, sign posting to prevent postcode lottery and changes to medical school curricula.
- Baroness Cumberlege has already contributed due to her work on vaginal mesh. A request for the foreword to be written by Rosie Cooper MP and Baroness Greengross was accepted.
- Publication is expected in March 2021

Following questions, Charles confirmed that:

- Chronic pelvic floor pain was included in the report but not a major point.
- Public Health England had not been involved.
- APPG GP clinician, Dr Satinder Kumar had been kept informed.
- Tracy proposed that a facebook event might be appropriate to eventually publicise the report.

Wendy Colley OBE, former continence nurse, author of The Colley Model

- The Colley Model was launched on 23 October 2020 as an online tool for patient assessment and resources aimed at medical professionals with limited experience in continence care <https://www.continenceassessment.co.uk>.
- Sharon said she would be teaching a bladder dysfunction lesson online and would be happy to use the Colley Model during the session.
- Tracy confirmed that the link to the online tool had been circulated to a wide stakeholder list of those who attended the November 2019 meeting organised by AHPMA. It had also been put on the APPG website and the AHPMA website
- Tracy raised the issue of whether it might be possible to organise a Facebook event to promote the Colley Model.
- Rosie Cooper MP praised Wendy's diligence and dedication in bringing the Colley Model to fruition along with all those who supported her.

Janice Rymer, Consultant Gynaecologist

- Speaking in her capacity as an advisor on pelvic floor to NHS England and NHS Improvement and working with Charles Podschies from the Maternity and Women's Health Policy team, she presented her report.

- Five themes: Prevention; Outcomes, Education, Best Practice and support for Mesh removal.
- NHS should do more at preventing incontinence from pregnancy and incontinence at the menopause with relatively low-cost interventions.

Charlie Podschies, Senior Policy Manager, Maternity and Women's Health Policy Team NHS England and Improvement

- He updated the APPG on perinatal pelvic health services. The NHS Long Term Plan (Jan 2019 said “*by 2023/24 we will ensure that all women have access to multi-disciplinary pelvic health clinics and pathways across England*”.
- Funding will be available nationally from Q4 20/21 for a limited number of NHS Health Systems to trial and implement Perinatal Pelvic Health Services (PPHS). An expression of interest process is underway to select these Early Implementers. This funding – and the number of implementing areas – will increase until full national coverage is achieved from 23/24. Sustained annual funding will be handed to the NHS for the continuation of these services from April 2024.
- Key Actions include:
 - Embed evidence-based practice in antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care to prevent and mitigate pelvic floor dysfunction.
 - Improve rate of identification of pelvic floor issues.
 - Establish a Perinatal Pelvic Health Service and reduce referral times.
 - Increase specialist women's health physiotherapists to meet demand.
- Rosie Cooper MP asked how confident he was that this would go ahead given funding pressures and how early on in life females should be educated?
- Charlie explained that Long Term Plan commitment and funding for this was clear, and there was a widely shared view among stakeholders that education should begin with the education of girls aged 13-16 but it would be competing against a lot of other PHSE subjects.
- Pat asked if Charlie had talked to Public Health England about education/publicity. Charlie confirmed he had had conversations.
- Sharon asked how information on this project was being transmitted as she had heard nothing of this and is working on frontline services. She raised workforce concerns and education of midwives. It was explained that the Expression of Interest process was being run at a Health System (i.e. STP) level.
- Jacq felt it was a great project but was sceptical about success of implementation.
- Charlie confirmed that from 1 April 2020, there was a new mandatory GP check requirement for all postnatal patients. Best practice guidance is being developed for this check, to include a discussion around pelvic floor health. Publication is planned for a time when there is capacity in primary care to digest it, and for NHSEI to communicate the guidance and check proactively (n.b. there has been little communication of this due to COVID).
- June suggested that some media and companies still need to change their messaging as they were normalising the problem.
- Tracy confirmed that the Chief Midwifery Officer had requested a discussion with industry on how messaging problems could be resolved and hoped a meeting could be held soon.

Action points and future Priorities for the APPG

- The next meeting and AGM would be held around April 2021. This could be a small meeting to comply with parliamentary rules. A further meeting in Autumn 2021 could be planned.
- Rosie Cooper MP agreed to table some pq's covering the issues raised.
- A progress report on the National Bladder and Bowel Project would be sent to the APPG.
- The APPG was requested to revisit its previous Pitch to the Health Select Committee.
- The new UK Pelvic Floor Services report is to be circulated for comment to key APPG clinicians and then a Foreward written by Rosie Cooper MP and Baroness Greengross.
- Tracy passed on a request from a medical colleague for questions for medical students which would promote learning around bladder and bowel.

3 February 2021