

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

VIRTUAL AGM MEETING

11.00 – 12.30pm – THURSDAY 22ND APRIL 2021

MINUTES

Attendees:

Parliamentarians:

Rosie Cooper MP (Lab West Lancashire)

Baroness Greengross (CB)

Tulip Sadiq MP (Lab Hampstead and Kilburn)

Rupa Huq MP (Lab Ealing Central and Acton)

Baroness Thornton (Lab)

APPG Secretariat:

Tracy Stewart

Helen Newey

Pat Murtagh

APPG clinicians and invitees:

Prof Charles Knowles

Prof Nikki Cotterill

Sharon Eustice

June Rogers MBE

Wendy Colley OBE

Jacq Emkes, Patient Advocate

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

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

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

Chris Warren, NHSE/NHSI Communications Team

Lindsay Lorton, AHPMA

Apologies:

Ruth Jones MP

Dr Satinder Kumar

Baroness Masham

Baroness Finlay

Rosie Cooper MP

Welcomed all. The meeting voted to endorse the proposed Officers as follows:

Rosie Cooper MP (Lab West Lancashire), Chair

Baroness Greengross (CB), Co-Chair

Baroness Masham (CB), Vice-Chair

Baroness Finlay (CB), Vice-Chair

Ruth Jones MP (Lab, Newport), Officer

Andrew Selous MP (Con South West Bedfordshire)

Rosie reported back on activities since the last meeting which took place on 12 January 2021 as follows:

- The report by the UK Pelvic Floor Society had been endorsed by both Chair and Co-Chair and Prof Charles Knowles would update the meeting.
- Dr Nikki Cotterill is continuing her work on the self-help App and her report on continence services. She will update on these and also recent RCN activity later in the meeting.
- A pitch to the Health Select Committee had been prepared at the request of APPG clinicians.
- Wendy Colley has continued to work on the Colley Model continence assessment tool and will present a proposal for GPs to the meeting.
- A number of parliamentary questions had been tabled on incontinence issues since January which had help raise the profile within the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department of Education. A question on workforce revealed that as of Sept 2020, there were 2,054 full time equivalent nurses employed with an area of work of urology and 312 nurses with an area of work of stoma care. A question on access to products had been raised by Dr Kieran Mullan MP and the Dept had approached the APPG secretariat for guidance. Dr Kieran Mullan has been invited to join the APPG.

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

- A Joint Society Report on UK Pelvic Floor Services, is to be published on 28 April 2021, embargoed for 25 April with an article to be published in the Mail on Sunday.
- There are plans to publicise on social media and via a microsite to be funded possibly by the APPG. There will be stock letters for use by patients and professionals which could be sent to MPs.
- Publication to be widely disseminated within the NHS.
- Opportunity likely to publicise on Woman's Hour.

Baroness Greengross, (Co-Chair)

Baroness Greengross has been following the Lavatories Bill in the House of Lords. She updated the meeting:

- The British Toilet Association has joined with the British Cleaning Council.
- Government has responded to some suggestions, but local authorities are still closing toilets.
- In a debate on Crohn's disease, she raised the need for Boys need Bins and the Government Minister replied that he would follow this up.
- Charles Knowles suggested linking in the 'Boys need Bins' campaign with the Water Board who had a vested interest in items incorrectly disposed of in toilets. Tracy confirmed she has briefed Water UK and DEFRA on this and that there was interest. Tracy will follow up. A key manufacturer has picked up on 'Boys need Bins' and achieved good publicity including TV coverage.
- Charles suggested that NIHR and Innovate UK might want to look at producing a biodegradable stoma bag. Tracy pointed out that biodegradables doesn't necessarily mean flushable and suggested speaking with Water UK.
- Kevin Hodges said there was one company that did make a flushable colostomy bag.

- Tracy agreed to send to Chris Warren some further information on what has been done so far on the ‘Boys need Bins’ campaign with a view to seeking better understanding and support from NHSEI
- Pat raised the issue of specific pieces of legislation relating to the provision of workplace toilets and equality issues.
- Sally proposed going to the Human Rights Commission. The APPG secretariat agreed to review possibilities and Jacq Emkes suggested she could help provide a male spokesperson.

Nikki Cotterill, provided an update on the App:

- The App is designed as a self-help service signposting the ways and places to seek help. It will be called the CONFidence App developed by the BABCON Health Integration Team in Bristol.
- It will be launched in World Continence Week at the end of June 2021.
- It is to be reviewed by the NHS and if approved will form+ part of the NHS App library.
- More funding will look at its integration into clinical care pathways (including GP, Bladder and Bowel services, midwifery and maternity) so professionals can direct them there.
- Pat suggested she could discuss with Dr Kumar whether the Hurley Clinic might be willing to run a trial.
- A meeting will take place between Charles, Nikki and Sue Doheny at NHSEI.

Charles Podschies, (NHS England and Improvement Maternity Team)

- Fourteen areas have been identified as early implementers of the plan to support improved perinatal pelvic health care reaching 175,000 births with £3.2m approx funding per year.
- A similar number of additional areas will come on stream in 2022, who will be invited to apply for funding in the third quarter of 2021.
- It is aimed to be fully rolled out nationally by April 2024.
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are expected to be replaced by Integrated Care Systems in 2022 and this project is already operating in line with this new structure.
- It is intended to have a single point of access for multi-disciplinary practice.
- Services will help ensure that all women with pelvic floor dysfunction are offered non-surgical care in the first instance, in line with NICE guidance.

Jacq Emkes, provided an update on the work of the UK Bladder and Bowel Health Project:

- Sue Doheny chair of the National Bowel and Bladder Health Project(NBBH), has led the work with a leadership team on the issues raised by the Excellence IN continence care guidance, throughout the pandemic.
- The objectives of the are to develop:
 - Evidence-based and patient-focussed bladder and bowel care pathways, that can improve outcomes for adults, children and young people, ensuring relevance to all care groups.
 - Programmes that promote bladder and bowel health, prevention is key
 - Educational materials on bladder and bowel health and care for all people, patients, carers and health care professionals.

- A Commissioning Framework, to be commissioned nationally, with identified priority areas to improve outcomes for adults, children and young people, ensuring relevance to all care groups. Objectives have included developing educational material and a commissioner framework.
- Due to limited resources being currently available for the project the Clinical and Product Assurance (CaPA) team within NHS Supply Chain is providing informal project management support to the NBBH workstreams, this is mainly administrative support to facilitate meetings etc.
- The CaPA webpage on the NHS Supply Chain website will signpost directly to the NBBH website once available.
- Funding for bowel care including paediatrics will be forthcoming.
- June Rogers spoke about work she had done with Down Syndrome Groups. She said that there was also a major issue with some GPs not understanding how to treat constipation in children with patients left on inappropriate medicine for lengthy periods and not followed up. June's work involved empowering parents to challenge GP thinking.
- Pat suggested a one-page update to pass to Dr Satinder Kumar with a view to discussing how GP support can be improved.

Wendy Colley OBE, former continence advisor & author of The Colley Model

- The Colley Model was launched six months ago. A blog has been written by Joanne Hoyle (a former APPG clinician) for the Nursing Times which should be available soon.
- An article has been written for the British Journal of Nursing by Wendy.
- The ACA has promoted the Colley Model throughout their regions and offered a slot to Wendy at their June conference.
- Nikki Cotterill confirmed that the RCN has included a link to the model in an educational module to be launched shortly from the RCN Bladder and Bowel Forum
- A possible Facebook Live Event and other social media opportunities are being explored which might be sponsored by the APPG (rules to be checked).
- A consultant contact of Wendy's suggested producing a shortened version for GPs and Pat agreed to talk to Dr Kumar about whether this could be piloted at his practice.
- Sharon Eustice pointed out they were building a Referral Management System which was working in Cornwall and might be useful as a template for GPs generally. Sharon also said the Colley Model has been embedded in their locality assessment policy documents.
- Tracy suggested that whilst the APPG stakeholder list had been notified it would benefit from a press campaign.
- Chris Warren suggested speaking to the Royal College of GPs regarding getting into GP publications.
- Nikki said that pharmacies advice on continence care was sporadic but it is being scoped out and Sally Greengross who has done work with Boots suggested they might help and indeed had provided assistance to Sharon across Cornwall.
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Other

- Following a House of Commons parliamentary question about education of girls on pelvic floor, it was suggested that one option was to look at what resources might be provided to Public Health England
- Rosie commented that her trade union, USDAW had an article on women's incontinence in a magazine and had a 4 page health leaflet which looked at workplace issues and support.
- Pat suggested that it should cover men too and might be an opportunity to raise the Boys need Bins with the union.
- Jacq suggested approaching teachers' unions.

Ends