



APPG on Dementia: Inaugural Meeting Minutes

Time and Date: 4:30pm, Tuesday, November 26th, 2024

Location: Room S, Portcullis House

Attendance:

Members: Debbie Abrahams MP, Joe Robertson MP, Baroness Murphy, Baroness Crawley, Sir Jeremy Wright MP, Shockat Adam MP, Paulette Hamilton MP

Staffers: Roberta Korisingh (Office of Debbie Abrahams MP), Hannah Wiles (Office of Freddie Van Meirlo MP)

Secretariat: Tyler Bennington-Poulter (National Influence Officer, Alzheimer's Society), Lewis Scott (National Influence Officer, Alzheimer's Society)

Minutes:

Welcome and Introduction (4:30 PM – 4:35 PM)

- Debbie Abrahams MP opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees as the group came together to formally establish the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Dementia.
- Debbie stated that dementia is the greatest health and social care challenges facing the UK today. She noted that nearly one million people are currently living with dementia, a figure that is projected to rise to 1.4 million by 2040. Additionally, she stated that the economic burden of dementia is equally profound, with annual dementia-related costs in the UK totaling £42 billion in 2024, projected to double to £90 billion by 2040.

Formal Establishment of the APPG (4:35 PM – 4:45 PM)

Confirmation of Group Name and Mission Statement:

- Debbie proposed the formal name of the group: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia. She also presented the mission statement: "To raise awareness of dementia in Parliament and promote policy solutions to reduce the devastation caused by dementia."
- Both the name and the mission statement were unanimously agreed upon by attendees.

Election of Officers:

- Debbie then moved to the election of the group's Officers, explaining that each position would be proposed and confirmed through a vote of members present.

Vice Chairs:



- Debbie proposed Baroness Ritchie and Joe Robertson MP to serve as Vice Chairs of the APPG. Both nominees were unopposed, and all members present voted unanimously in favour. Debbie congratulated Baroness Ritchie and Joe Robertson MP on their election.

Co-Chair:

- Debbie then nominated Baroness Browning to serve as Co-Chair of the APPG. The nomination was uncontested, and members unanimously voted in favour of Baroness Browning's election. Debbie thanked Baroness Browning for her willingness to take on this role.

Chair:

- Debbie handed the floor to Joe Robertson MP, who formally proposed Debbie Abrahams MP as Chair of the APPG. The nomination was warmly supported by all members present, and Debbie was unanimously elected as Chair. Debbie expressed her gratitude for the group's support and reiterated her commitment to working collaboratively to achieve meaningful change for people affected by dementia.

Confirmation of Membership:

- Debbie confirmed that the APPG had secured over 20 members from both Houses of Parliament, representing a diverse range of political parties, including Labour, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru, the DUP, and Crossbench Peers. She thanked all members for their dedication to the group's cause.

Priorities for the APPG (4:45 PM – 5PM)

- Debbie Abrahams MP outlined key focus areas for the APPG, including dementia diagnosis, treatments, and social care, before inviting members present their own thoughts.
- Shokat Adam MP shared his experience as an Optometrist, noting the frequency with which early symptoms of dementia go undiagnosed. He called for increased awareness of symptom recognition, the importance of early diagnosis, and greater attention to prevention and causes of dementia.
- Joe Robertson MP said he would like to link the APPG's work to his role on the Health and Social Care Committee, referencing its ongoing inquiry into the cost of inaction in social care. He suggested the APPG could explore the financial and emotional costs of inaction on dementia care and support.
- Baroness Murphy reflected on her experience as the first professor of Geriatric Psychiatry. She noted the lack of awareness around the high economic cost of dementia, which exceeds that of other major health conditions. She also noted the need for improved training for both social care and NHS staff.
- Baroness Crawley criticised the fragmented approach to care for people living with dementia, citing disparate funding streams, unequal access to services, and limited awareness of available support. She proposed mapping existing services to improve



access and facilitate the sharing of best practices.

- Debbie Abrahams MP suggested revisiting past APPG reports, such as the workforce inquiry, to assess progress and inform future activities.

Administrative Requirements and Closing Remarks (5:05 PM – 5:10 PM)

Debbie Abrahams MP ensured the necessary administrative steps were completed:

- The registry form was confirmed as completed and ready for submission to the APPG Register within the required 28 days.
- In her closing remarks, Debbie thanked members for their contributions and reiterated the APPG's commitment to making dementia a political priority.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 PM.