

**Inaugural meeting: APPG on Osteoporosis and Bone Health**

**Thursday 25 March 2021**

**11:00 - 12:00**

**MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**Attendees:** Judith Cummins MP, Lord Black, Baroness Cumberlege, Baroness Quin, Jacqui Connor (for John McDonnell MP), Baroness Chisholm, Lord Brownlow, Baroness Wheeler, Gary Streeter MP, Lord Foulkes, Karin Smyth MP, Baroness Masham

Dr Nicky Peel, Philippa Russell, Craig Jones (ROS)

**Apologies:** Jessica Morden MP, Julian Sturdy MP

**Minute Taker:** Esme Bertouche

**MINUTES**

No.	Item	Action	Timing
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Election of officers</b>		
	<p>Judith Cummins MP, as Host, welcomed all attendees to the meeting and gave thanks to all involved for their participation, noting apologies sent by JM and JS.</p> <p>JC initiated the election of officers and opened the floor to expressions of interest, of which the following were received and colleagues duly elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judith Cummins as Chair</li> <li>• Lord Guy Black as Co-Chair</li> <li>• Julian Sturdy MP, Baroness Quin, Baroness Masham and Karin Smyth MP - Vice Chairs</li> </ul> <p>JC opened the floor to expressions of interest for the Secretary and Treasurer roles, however no expressions of interest were made.</p> <p>JC gave thanks to all colleagues nominated and elected.</p>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Agreement of Terms of Reference for APPG (for approval)</b>		

No.	Item	Action	Timing
	<p>JC noted the Terms of Reference have been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>CJ welcomed all attendees and introduced himself as CEO of the Royal Osteoporosis Society. CJ gave thanks for the energy and goodwill offered by everyone and expressed the ROS's pride at providing the Secretariat function to the APPG. CJ set out the services that will be provided.</p> <p>JC gave thanks to CJ and asked for formal approval to the terms of reference. <b>Approval</b> was given by all attendees.</p>		
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Philippa Russell, Patient Advocate</b></p> <p>On how the right services are crucial for managing osteoporosis and avoiding escalation of pain and disability</p>		
	<p>PR thanked JC for the invitation to speak and gave attendees a personal account of her journey with Osteoporosis from diagnosis to initial treatment. PR discussed the actions she has taken to prevent further fractures, the impact on her life of managing her existing fractures and the support she's received from the NHS.</p> <p>JC thanked PR for her impactful account of her experience.</p>		
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Dr Nicky Peel, Chair of the Clinical Committee, ROS</b></p> <p>On the state of bone health services in hospitals following the pandemic, and the postcode lottery for Fracture Liaison Services (FLS)</p>		
	<p>JC introduced NP and gave her the floor.</p> <p>NP thanked attendees for the invitation to speak, expressing additional thanks to PR for providing such an in-depth and clear account of how Osteoporosis has impacted both her life and the lives of her family members.</p> <p>NP introduced herself and gave a presentation on the current landscape of services for people living with Osteoporosis, highlighting inequalities around access and quality. NP reflected on the impact of COVID-19 on clinical settings and made several suggestions for how Bone Health services can build back stronger (presentation slides to be circulated with meeting minutes).</p> <p>NP thanked members and opened the floor to questions.</p> <p>Baroness Chisholm about the importance of training for clinical staff, particularly in relation to GPs potentially not picking up on the signs and evidence which might be</p>		

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	<p>available. NP noted that education is key and agreed that a lack of awareness amongst GPs is pertinent. NP explained that Osteoporosis does not fit neatly into any one specialty and is not recognised as a specialist clinical area, which has impaired education and training for Healthcare Professionals (HCPs). NP explained she is highly supportive of plans to improve education and awareness amongst HCPs, as well as the public.</p> <p>Lord Black queried the 'quest for cure' noted within NP's presentation and questioned if this is realistic in the short term. NP was also asked to confirm what action is being taken towards finding a cure.</p> <p>NP replied that the drive to develop a cure is aspirational and will be an objective that will be worked on over the longer term. NP noted the definition of cure in the minds of many ROS members is to be free of the fear of fractures and to avoid Osteoporosis affecting their lives, which is certainly realistic in the shorter term. NP noted there are already very good treatments available and research is being undertaken on how to use them more effectively to close treatment gaps.</p> <p>JC queried potential patterns to the postcode lottery of FLS services. NP explained there is a clear association between social deprivation and limited access, with particular awareness that some ethnic minority communities either do not have access to FLS services due to their postcode, and that in many areas uptake is lower.</p> <p>Baroness Quin asked if the APPG can make recommendations to government in order to improve access to FLS in England and Wales. NP referred to the draft ROS manifesto, noting that attaining full coverage of FLS is top of the list of recommendations.</p> <p>JC thanked NP for her time and comprehensive presentation.</p>		
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Approval of draft work programme, including agreement for an Inquiry into Fracture Liaison Services (FLSs) (for approval)</b>		
	<p>JC introduced the draft APPG work programme and asked for approval.</p> <p>CJ summarised the work programme, noting that it is centred around a solutions-focused Inquiry into the 'postcode lottery' for FLS services in terms of access, coverage and quality, as this is where many of the missed</p>		

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	<p>opportunities for the treatment and prevention of Osteoporosis lie. CJ noted that the Inquiry will seek to gather data and evidence for APPG members to underwrite recommendations to Government.</p> <p>JC opened the floor for comments and asked for agreement to approve. All members <b>approved</b>.</p>		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Early comments on Draft ROS Manifesto</b>		
	<p>JC introduced the draft ROS manifesto and offered attendees the chance to offer feedback.</p> <p>CJ set out the four recommendations and asked for early feedback. He added that members and stakeholders are welcome to provide further feedback over the next fortnight (ending 8 April) before the ROS finalises the document. The final version will be tabled for information only at the next APPG meeting.</p> <p>Baroness Chisholm queried whether more can be done to reflect inequalities in service uptake and access within BAME communities. CJ thanked Baroness Chisholm for the suggestion and confirmed that text would be drafted to strengthen the content around equalities. NP reiterated the importance of improving engagement with service users from ethnic minority groups.</p> <p>JC gave thanks to all attendees and speakers for their participation and committed that the minutes, group registration and future meetings will be actioned shortly and circulated.</p>		
	<b>MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:55</b>		

## Disclosure statement

The Royal Osteoporosis Society (ROS) aims to increase awareness and discussion of osteoporosis in the four Parliaments and Assemblies of the UK. This aim is shared by several corporate partners, who have each given the charity an arms-length grant to help achieve that outcome. Find out more about how we work with our corporate partners here. The ROS is an independent charity, with the interests of patients, their families and the wider public at its heart. Our policy and research is editorially independent, with a view to influencing a wide range of audiences, including corporate partners. All agendas, reports, briefings and papers for meetings are prepared without external input.

Supporting partners: Amgen, Consilient Health, Thornton & Ross Pharmaceuticals, UCB.