

## Minutes of the AGM of the APPG on Dementia

8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 1.30pm-2pm

### Attendees

Members: Debbie Abrahams MP, Baroness Browning, Baroness Ritchie, Baroness Greenfield, Lord Weir, Lord Blunkett

Staffers: George Hulme, Office of Debbie Abrahams MP; Benjamin Jones, Office of Laurence Robertson MP

Secretariat: Alex Osborne (Senior Public Affairs Officer, Alzheimer's Society); Lewis Scott (Public Affairs Officer, Alzheimer's Society)

### Minutes

- Group chair, Debbie Abrahams MP, welcomed Members to the APPG AGM, inviting everyone to introduce themselves. A short tribute was paid to the group's former co-chair, Sally Greengross, who sadly passed away in June 2022.
- Debbie Abrahams MP then moved to the election of officers for the year ahead. She nominated herself and Baroness Browning to be co-chairs, supported by all Members in attendance. Debbie handed the chair to Baroness Browning, who asked Members to vote in favour of Debbie's election. Baroness Browning, Baroness Ritchie, Baroness Greenfield, Lord Weir and Lord Blunkett voted for Debbie, who then resumed the chair. Debbie then asked Members to vote in favour of Baroness Browning's election. Debbie Abrahams MP, Baroness Ritchie, Baroness Greenfield, Lord Weir and Lord Blunkett voted for Baroness Browning. As such, **Debbie Abrahams MP and Baroness Browning were duly elected co-chairs of the APPG.**
- Debbie Abrahams MP then took nominations for Vice Chairs, which were as follows: **Baroness Finlay, Baroness Ritchie, Baroness Greenfield, Lord Blunkett, Lord Hunt, Lord Weir, Elliot Colburn MP, Jeremy Wright MP, Judith Cummins MP, Marie Rimmer MP, Mark Menzies MP, Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Liz Saville-Roberts MP, Laurence Robertson MP, and Ben Lake MP. These nominations were supported by all Members in attendance, with Debbie Abrahams MP, Baroness Browning, Baroness Ritchie, Baroness Greenfield, Lord Blunkett and Lord Weir voting in favour. All Members listed were thus duly elected as Vice Chairs, with Lisa Cameron MP also supported to stay on board as a Member only.**
- Debbie Abrahams MP ran through the group's work over the past year, covering the letter she and Baroness Greengross sent to the Minister for Care on the National Dementia Strategy (then 10-year plan for dementia, now Major Conditions Strategy) last year; the Group's press release on promising Alzheimer's treatment Lecanemab in December; her and Vice-Chair Elliot

Colburn MP's attendance at the Alzheimer's Society open letter hand-in (signed by 36k campaigners) at 10 Downing Street in January; and the Group's latest inquiry work, including last year's [Workforce Matters](#) report on how the social care workforce can be enabled to support people affected by dementia to live the lives they want, and the one-off inquiry session the Group held on dementia, scams, and fraud, also in January (watch back [here](#)).

- Baroness Browning then covered forthcoming group work, most notably the group's new inquiry into regional variation in dementia diagnosis rates in England, with a particular focus on rurality and deprivation. The group will be holding oral evidence sessions for this inquiry on 15, 22 and 29 March which will be run as webinars. All group members are invited to tune in – details on how to do this will be circulated via email.
- Baroness Browning also covered the group's invitation to Helen Whately to join a joint roundtable on social care reform, hosted with the APPG Adult Social Care, which we hope to run in late April. Lastly, she highlighted that both the delivery of the National Dementia Mission and the development of the Major Conditions Strategy are areas where it would be useful for the Group to keep an eye on developments. The floor was then opened up for discussion of potential future work.
- Lady Greenfield enquired as to what clarity we have on where and when Dementia Mission Funding will be allocated. Alex Osborne stated that we expect more news on this once the Mission Chair has been announced, which we expect to occur in the next few weeks.
- Lord Blunkett emphasised the importance of ensuring Dementia Mission funding isn't diluted into wider health research, and of highlighting areas where dementia research is going well. He suggested it would be useful to invite the Mission Chair to speak to APPG members when we know who it is.
- Lord Blunkett also stated the importance of monitoring any social care workforce announcements during the budget given the Government is due to announce further information on its plans for reform shortly.
- Lord Weir commented on the availability of social care and the postcode lottery of accessing services, stating it would be good for the group to work on this.
- Before the meeting was drawn to a close, Alex Osborne flagged that Alzheimer's Society would be launching a brand refresh on 9 March. A video promoting the refresh can be viewed [here](#).
- Debbie Abrahams MP then concluded the meeting by thanking all attendees for coming.