



The United Kingdom  
Acquired Brain Injury Forum

31 January 2020

**UKABIF/APPG on Acquired Brain Injury Briefing Update  
Westminster Hall Debate 1.30pm, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**All-Party Parliamentary Group for Acquired Brain Injury (APPG/ABI)**

**Please see the attached information sheet which provides key statistics**

- Formed in 2017 to raise awareness of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), the APPG on ABI raises key issues across health, social care, welfare, criminal justice, education, sport and defence to seek improvements in support and services for people directly affected by brain injury, and for their families and carers.
- In October 2018 the APPG published an evidence-based report 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation – Time for Change' to highlight issues surrounding the provision of neurorehabilitation services for people with brain injury in the UK. This initial report focussed on health, education, criminal justice, sport-related concussion and the welfare benefits system.  
[https://cdn.ymaws.com/ukabif.org.uk/resource/resmgr/campaigns/appg-abi\\_report\\_time-for-cha.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/ukabif.org.uk/resource/resmgr/campaigns/appg-abi_report_time-for-cha.pdf)

A summary of the key recommendations is attached.

- Individuals with brain injuries impact on many government departments, including the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Department for Education, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DDCMS), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

• **United Kingdom Acquired Brain Injury Forum**  
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The Department for Health and Social Care responded to the APPG Report in January 2019 and the APPG/ABI produced its feedback in April 2019

**The DHSC stated that National Health Service England will ensure that individuals' neurorehabilitation needs will be 'appropriately met for as long as they are needed'**

However, following two debates in parliament in 2019 little progress has been made

- In July 2019 the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care, Seema Kennedy, promised to provide a response to the The National Clinical Audit of Specialist Rehabilitation following Major Injury (NCASRI) conducted in April 2019) and to report and feedback from the Department for Work and Pensions on the Cost Recovery Scheme. There has been no feedback to date.
- The DHSC also mentioned new processes and audits, which have yet to generate results; the APPG on ABI would be keen to see these when they emerge.

**In 2020 we would like to see the following which would provide an immediate impact on improving the lives of people with acquired brain injuries**

- Children, young people and adults who have an Acquired Brain Injury require early access to adequate and consistent neurorehabilitation services - a mandated approach is needed across the board whether it be a major trauma centre, hospital, or community service.
- More neurorehabilitation health professionals (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, nurses, neuropsychologists, educational psychologists) are needed to deliver services.
- Rehabilitation prescriptions documenting support needed to maximise recovery must be mandated across all services and should be updateable so progress can be monitored and integrated with all health and social care care systems.
- Criminal justice procedures, practices and policies need to be reformed to take into account the needs of individuals.
- Best Practice Guidelines must be approved and followed for Children and Young people returning to education after an acquired brain injury.
- Shared responsibility and cooperation between key government departments is needed including the Department of Health and Social Care, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department of Education, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Ministries of Justice and Defence.
- A national plan is needed to articulate societal benefit, raise awareness of this hidden disability, and model pathways and contracts for service planners and commissioners.

**All Members of Parliament have constituents living with the consequences of an ABI. The APPG on ABI is asking MPs to attend and speak at the Westminster Hall Debate at 1.30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and to support its call for the government to work in a coordinated and consistent way by bringing together, a taskforce to address the issues and recommendations outlined in its report 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation – Time for Change.'**