**Meeting of APPG for Eating Disorders**

Monday 14th September

09:30-11:00

**Date**: 14/09/2020

**Attendees:** Scott Benton MP (SB), Dr Lisa Cameron MP (LC),Tim Farron MP (TF), Wera Hobhouse MP (WH), Lena McCormick (representing George Howarth MP) (LM), Caroline Nokes MP (CN), Baroness Parminter (BP), Catherine West MP (CW), Minha Fayoom, *guest* (MF), Kate Highton, *guest* (KH)

Sophie Clark, *Beat* (SC), Jonathan Kelly, *Beat* (JK), Katherine Pugh, *Beat* (KP) and Tom Quinn, *Beat* (TQ)

**Apologies:** Helen Hayes MP, George Howarth MP, Ruth Jones MP, Jim Shannon MP and Munira Wilson MP

1. Welcome from Wera Hobhouse MP (5 minutes)
2. Presentation from Jonathan Kelly of interim report on UK eating disorders research funding 2009-2019 (30 minutes)
3. Question and Answers (35 minutes)

WH asked if following the interim report there are any immediate actions that can be taken to make progress on increasing the levels of funding for research on eating disorders.

JK responded that funders, including the National Institute for Health Research, invite questions from the public on what they should fund. It was noted that some further research on this was required.

**Action: Beat to explore potential immediate actions, in particular the process of contacting research funders.**

JK has approached funders who are interested in this research. JK highlighted that a call for written evidence and subsequent oral evidence session would add to existing information.

The group also discussed asking Parliamentary Questions about research funding.

BP asked what kind of research is being funded, who we need to influence, and what questions we need to ask.

JK highlighted that only 60% of relevant studies have been coded to date. It was noted that abstracts could be used to code studies that have not been coded, however, this needs to be explored first.

JK also highlighted that we could increase our knowledge through initiating a call for written evidence and holding an oral evidence session. The information gained from this evidence will then be used to inform the planning of an oral evidence session.

**Action**: **Beat to review whether it would be practical to code the uncoded studies based on their abstracts.**

**Beat to draft potential questions for the written evidence and organise a call out for written evidence with a view to holding an oral evidence session at a future APPG meeting**, **which will include researchers and research funders.**

KH raised that in other health areas national audits of treatment services are conducted and suggested that it could be useful to explore the potential of a national audit of treatment services for eating disorders. KH also informed the group that some research institutions fund PhDs with the aim of training the next generation of researchers and that again this is an area that could be explored.

**Action: Beat to research the potential of an audit of eating disorder treatment services.**

1. AOB (15 minutes)

CW raised the concern that when she has tabled written questions about eating disorders services for children and young people the response has been delayed and she has just been referred to the NHS five-year plan. It was noted this is particularly concerning as young people are having difficulties with services, especially around transitions and inpatient treatment.

JK responded that Beat would be happy to support with drafting follow up questions. It was also agreed that CW and WH would seek a Ministerial meeting on the topic of eating disorder services for young people. SB also offered to join this meeting.

**Action: Best to support CW with follow up questions on eating disorders services for children and young people.**

**WH, CW and SB to request meeting with appropriate Minister to discuss eating disorders services for children and young people.**

CN emphasised the importance of asking Parliamentary Questions about eating disorders, and in particular oral questions. It was agreed that a more coordinated approach could be taken to asking Parliamentary Questions.

**Action: WH and Beat to discuss how best to coordinate Parliamentary Questions.**

WH suggested that the next APPG focus on the obesity strategy and the risks that the strategy poses to people affected by eating disorders. This was supported by the group.

**Action: Beat to contact the APPG on Obesity and organise a joint APPG meeting on the obesity strategy.**

TQ gave an update from Beat, including that demand for Beat’s Helpline services in the past six months has increased by 97% compared to the same period last year. TQ also referenced the research that the University of Northumbria conducted into the impact of the pandemic on people living with eating disorders.

5. Agree date for next meeting (5 minutes)

It was agreed that the next APPG meeting would be on the obesity strategy and that the subsequent meeting would be an evidence session on research funding.