



Cancer52

All Member Update

31st March 2017

Dear All

I am writing following an email last week to let you know of the APPGC's roundtable discussion, which discussed how best we as a cancer community can support and work with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to improve one-year cancer survival rates – one of the few disease-specific outcome indicators in the NHS, and one which can most effectively be improved through earlier diagnosis.

The APPGC is chaired by John Baron, MP, whom many of you will already know for his longstanding work in support of both individual cancer charities but also for the wider cause.

At the roundtable we considered a draft letter from John, circulated last week, and many of you signed up there and then. As a result of that meeting though there were a couple of amends made to the final proposed letter, including a specific mention of rarer cancers.

So

- Cancer52 is signing up to the new letter, replicated below
- we'll assume unless otherwise advised that if you signed up to the first draft you will be happy/happier with the final draft and its mention of rarer cancers and that your sign up stands (we'll email you individually on this as well)
- if you would like now to sign up to the final letter then please do let us know - email us at info@cancer52.org.uk by the end of play on Tuesday 4th April and we will let the APPGC secretariat know

APPGC letter to CCGS

10th April 2017

Dear [CCG Chief Officer],

One Year Cancer Survival Rates – Sent to all Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officers

We write to offer our support in your objective of improving the one year cancer survival rates of your Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and to invite you to our Parliamentary meetings and Britain Against Cancer (BAC) conference in December – the largest

gathering of the cancer community in the UK.

You will be aware that, after a long campaign by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer (APPGC) and the wider 'cancer community', since April 2015 CCGs have been held accountable by NHS England for their individual one-year figures – reflecting the APPGC's view that early diagnosis is cancer's 'magic key', especially if we are to make progress in such areas as rarer cancers. The recent NHS reforms enable CCGs to promote initiatives to improve earlier diagnosis which are tailored to their local populations – these could include better diagnostics at Primary Care, more symptom awareness campaigns, and improved screening programmes.

We were pleased to see that part of the £200m Cancer Transformation Fund, announced by Simon Stevens in December, was earmarked for Cancer Alliances to deliver initiatives in early diagnosis, and look forward to monitoring the impact of these initiatives as they work with CCGs on one year survival, and on other areas.

You will also be acutely aware of the task in hand. Our survival rates remain well behind comparable international figures. Latest figures show the one year survival rate in Sweden is 81%, which compares to 70.4% for England – equating to a difference of thousands of extra deaths within the year of diagnosis. Meanwhile, the latest CCG year-on-year average figure shows only a 0.8% improvement, with a 9.8% variation between the best- and worst-performing CCGs. Furthermore, one in five cancers continue to be first diagnosed via an emergency presentation. A similar picture of lower survival rates emerges from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Further to our successful campaign, the APPGC's annual Summer Reception last year welcomed the 20 CCGs which had most improved their one-year survival rates – we intend to make this Awards ceremony a regular fixture. Meanwhile, the APPGC will continue to highlight the one year figures at our annual BAC conference on 5th December, in meetings with Ministers and the NHS, and in the House of Commons. The APPGC is joined in this endeavour by all the remaining cancer-specific APPGs, which the APPGC brings together in regular meetings.

We acknowledge CCGs do not have responsibility for broad national issues, such as the workforce, which we are ourselves raising with Government. However, CCGs do have an essential role to improve the situation and, together with NHS England, Public Health England, and the Department of Health, we are available to assist as necessary.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

John Baron MP (*Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer*)

cc. David Mowatt MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care and Support
Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England

Cally Palmer, National Cancer Director, NHS England
Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England

Name Surname
Chief Officer, XXX CCG
Street
Town, Postcode

best wishes and many thanks!
Jane

Jane Lyons

CEO [Cancer52](#)



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