



The United Kingdom  
Acquired Brain Injury Forum

NEWS REPORT | June 2019

# Brain Injury Week marked by reception in Westminster



Brain injury survivors, MPs and healthcare professionals at the Brain Injury Reception which took place in The Speakers House.

**A second Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) reception took place in Westminster last month in support of Action for Brain Injury Week (20-26 May). Hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Acquired Brain Injury's Chair, Chris Bryant, MP and UKABIF at the historic Speaker's House in the Palace of Westminster, over one hundred and fifty people attended including brain injury survivors, carers, charities, health professionals, MPs and Ministers.**

The event provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the recommendations in the APPG on ABI report launched last October entitled 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation – Time for Change'. Chris Bryant welcomed attendees and provided an update on the government's response to the Report – speeches were also given by MPs Sir John Hayes, Liz Twist, Sharon Hodgson and the Minister John Glen and Chloë Hayward, UKABIF's Executive Director. A further thirty MPs attended the event to meet with their constituents.



From left to right: Gemma Costello, The Childrens Trust; Chloe Hayward, UKABIF; Chris Bryant MP and Emily Bennett, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Dr Andrew Bateman, UKABIF Chair said: "The reception was a great success and an fantastic way of maintaining ABI awareness, the need for early and consistent access to neurorehabilitation, and its long-term impact on individuals and their families. The event was a great opportunity for UKABIF members to meet their MPs and discuss local neurorehabilitation services."

## RSM hosts UKABIF's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**UKABIF's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will take place at London's Royal Society of Medicine on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

The programme for this year's conference will continue to reflect the recommendations outlined in the 'Time for Change' report.

Early bird registration for the conference is now available. If you would like to present your research in the form of a poster at the conference there will be a Poster Award for the best ABI research project.

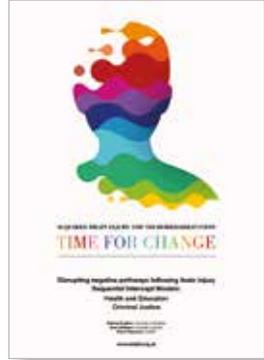
For details about the poster session and how to register for the conference visit: [www.ukabif.org.uk/events/ukabifs-11th-annual-conference-2019/](http://www.ukabif.org.uk/events/ukabifs-11th-annual-conference-2019/)



**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:  
Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

# Backbench government debate highlights the need for neurorehabilitation changes

**A Backbench Business Debate on ABI took place in the Commons Chamber last month. The debate was led by MPs Chris Bryant (Chair of APPG on ABI), Sir John Hayes and Liz Twist with a wide range of issues discussed that focussed on the APPG on ABI report 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation – Time for Change'.**



In the debate application to the Backbench Business Committee, Chris Bryant MP (Chair of the APPG on ABI) highlighted the report 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation – Time for Change' and welcomed the Government's formal response.

Chris commented: "One of the most intriguing things about the debate is that, while one's immediate instinct is that this is about health, it is actually about the Ministry of Defence, the Department for Work

and Pensions, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Education, the Ministry of Justice, and the Home Office. ABI and neurorehabilitation affects so many different Departments that it is time we had a proper three-hour debate to go over some of the answers that the Government have come back with and to explore further."

UKABIF provides the secretariat for the APPG on ABI and produced a

briefing document for the debate. Dr Andrew Bateman, UKABIF Chair said: "It's crucial that we continue to raise the issues in Westminster and drive the implementation of the report recommendations. UKABIF is extremely grateful to Chris Bryant and the APPG on ABI members for all their hard work and support".

**The report and the governments' response are available on the UKABIF website: [www.ukabif.org.uk](http://www.ukabif.org.uk)**

## Rehabilitation Prescription 2019 now available in Major Trauma Centres

**As part of its on-going campaign to support the availability of Rehabilitation Prescriptions (RPs), the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Alliance, a collaborative venture under charities, professional groups and industry coalitions working in the field of ABI, promoted the availability of RP 2019 during Brain Awareness Week in March.**

Professor Chris Moran, National Clinical Director for Trauma to NHS England, and Professor of Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery at Nottingham University Hospital said: "This new RP details the neurorehabilitation needs of both children and adults, and in order to maintain the continuity of rehabilitation, a copy should be given to the patient and/or family as well as their GP".

Professor Michael Barnes, ABI Alliance Chair said: "We support the availability of this revised version of the RP to emphasise its key role in ensuring patients access neurorehabilitation services following discharge. But the RP has no value if the individual with an ABI and their GP don't receive a copy. And if the individual and the GP don't know what rehabilitation is required then no access to services can be planned

or implemented."

The ABI Alliance believes that the RP should be given to all individuals with an ABI, on discharge from hospital, with a copy sent to their GP. This will then facilitate access to rehabilitation services in the community, maximising the individual's health outcomes.

**For more information on the ABI Alliance visit: [www.abialliance.org](http://www.abialliance.org)**

# UKABIF Film Award now open for entries



**The UKABIF Film Award, sponsored by Cygnet Health Care, is now open for entries with the winner to be announced at the UKABIF 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in November.**

The UKABIF Film Award is for a three-minute film raising awareness of ABI and illustrating the benefits of neurorehabilitation in the community for children, adolescents and adults. UKABIF is encouraging entries from individuals with a brain injury, their families or carers, students, the general public, care providers and voluntary organisations, as well as the rehabilitation multidisciplinary team, doctors in primary and secondary care, case managers, personal injury lawyers and social care workers. The Award is open to UKABIF members and non-members in the UK.



Entry forms and further information are available at: [www.ukabif.org.uk/filmaward](http://www.ukabif.org.uk/filmaward)

## Making the Link: Female offending and brain injury

**In February The Disabilities Trust launched the results of its report 'Making the Link: Female Offending and Brain Injury', the first study of its kind into brain injury in female offenders.**

The study, carried out from 2016 to 2018, involved 173 women in Her Majesty's Prison/Young Offenders Institute (HMP/YOI) Drake Hall, Staffordshire, who were screened using the Brain Injury Screening Tool. A history indicative of brain injury was found in 64%, and of those, almost all (96%) reported a history indicative of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). From the women supported through the service, 62% reported they had sustained their brain injury through domestic violence.

The needs of women in prison with TBI are likely to be complex, and the lack of understanding and identification of a brain injury may result in a higher risk of custody and re-offending. The study introduced a Brain Injury Linkworker Service in HMP/YOI Drake Hall to provide specialist support to women with a history of acquired and TBI. The Linkworker aimed to develop a sustainable pathway of support for rehabilitation

and to help prisoners manage the transition between custody and the community.

The women who were seen by the Linkworker experienced improved mood and self-esteem, and enhanced confidence and positivity; key factors that have been previously identified as being essential for a woman to engage in rehabilitative programmes. The Linkworker service also offered practical guidance for staff working with women with a brain injury, and alleviated pressure from other service provisions (e.g. mental health), concluding that the service provides a strong framework which benefits offenders and prisons to identify and manage brain injury.

The results highlight the need for a support pathway to help manage the health, cognitive and behavioural issues associated with brain injury, which may impact on the likelihood of re-offending.

### As a result of these findings The Disabilities Trust calls for:

- The inclusion of brain injury screening as a routine part of the induction assessment on entry to prison or probation services
- All prison and probation staff to receive basic brain injury awareness training
- The provision of brain injury support; similar to the Brain Injury Linkworker (BIL), in prisons and probation settings
- Assurance that brain injury support would be aligned with gender-informed practice
- Further research to be conducted to examine the potential effect of brain injury on re-offending behaviour, how effective neurorehabilitation can contribute towards the reduction of recidivism and the role of early intervention approaches.

## N-ABLES initiative – driving change in education for children and young people with ABI

**Following the publication of the APPG on ABI 'Time for Change' report, UKABIF has established the National Acquired Brain Injury Learning and Education Syndicate (N-ABLES), to represent the education needs and support required by children and young people with ABI.**

The core members of N-ABLES are Dr Emily Bennett, Clinical Psychologist, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust; Professor Nathan Hughes, Professorial Research Fellow, University of Sheffield; Petrina Sill, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The Eden Dora Trust for Children with Encephalitis; Lisa Turan, Chief Executive, The Child Brain Injury Trust; Dr Gemma Costello, Educational Psychologist, The Children's Trust.

# Who's who on the UKABIF board?

*This is the first in a series to introduce the UKABIF board members to readers.*



DR ANDREW BATEMAN

Dr Andrew Bateman has been UKABIF Chair since November 2017, and was recently appointed Director of The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service East of England, and Reader in the School of Health and Social Care at the University of Essex.

He has worked in research and clinical rehabilitation since qualifying as a Chartered Physiotherapist (East London) in 1990, and completed a PhD in Neuropsychology at the University of Birmingham in 1996. From 2002 to 2019 Andrew led the Oliver Zangwill Centre for Neuropsychological Rehabilitation in Ely.

Andrew is also President of The Society for Research in Rehabilitation – see twitter @drAndrewBateman for more news!

**Newly arriving at the University  
Andrew said:**

“I’m looking forward to getting to know the teams and their interests. The School provides training to Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Nurses, Psychologists and more, and I’m looking forward to my role in supporting multidisciplinary health research at the University”.

## News from the Norfolk and Waveney ABI Network

*The Norfolk and Waveney Acquired Brain injury Network (NWABIN) aims to improve outcomes for people with ABI in the Norfolk and Waveney STP area. It is the 'go to' network for professionals and organisations in Norfolk and Waveney, looking for information and access to advice on all aspects of ABI provision. The network's key partners from the voluntary sector do the same for ABI survivors in the area.*

NWABIN is a successful network for NHS and Local Authority commissioners, professionals with an interest in ABI, patient volunteers who share their experiences and a wide range of voluntary, private and statutory sector organisations working in this field.

Priorities for action and work plans are set with the aim of improving services. In 2019 there are a range of work streams covering local priorities

such as joint working between NHS and medico-legal teams, clinical neuropsychology, research and patient involvement and ABI within the clinical justice system.

A celebration event is planned in October 2019 to share the work stream outputs.

For further details, please email:  
[nwabn@groupmail.com](mailto:nwabn@groupmail.com)



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**UKABIF Annual Conference**  
Royal Society of Medicine, London

For more information and to register, please contact:  
[info@ukabif.org.uk](mailto:info@ukabif.org.uk)

For further information, please visit: [www.ukabif.org.uk](http://www.ukabif.org.uk)



## 11th Annual Conference Monday 11th November 2019

Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE



UKABIF aims to promote better understanding of all aspects of Acquired Brain Injury; to educate, inform and provide networking opportunities for professionals, service providers, planners and policy makers and to campaign for better services in the UK. UKABIF is a membership organisation and charity, established in 1998 by a coalition of organisations working in the field of Acquired Brain Injury.

For further information, please contact Chloë Hayward, UKABIF

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UKABIF – giving a voice to Acquired Brain Injury

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