



The United Kingdom
Acquired Brain Injury Forum

NEWS REPORT | December 2018

APPG on ABI launches neurorehabilitation report

The launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Acquired Brain Injury (APPG on ABI) report 'Time for Change: Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation', took place in a packed Westminster Committee Room in October.



Minister for Health Steve Brine, MP and APPG Chair, Chris Bryant, MP.

Speaking to an audience of MPs, charities, neurorehabilitation providers and brain injury survivors and their families, Chris Bryant MP, and APPG on ABI Chair said: "ABI is an invisible epidemic, and we need to ensure that the neurorehabilitation services required following a brain injury are 'fit for purpose' throughout the UK".

The report outlines the critical role of

neurorehabilitation in the ABI care pathway, and the need for Rehabilitation Prescriptions for all brain injury survivors following discharge from acute care so they know what neurorehabilitation they need. The report reviews the implications for children and young people with ABI when most of their neurorehabilitation takes place in the education system. The high incidence of ABI amongst offenders is discussed, as is the impact of neurorehabilitation on behavioural change and reoffending. The current issues in sport-related concussion are outlined as well as the need for an improved welfare system that is easily accessible.

The report summarises the key issues and makes a number of crucial recommendations. Chris Bryant concluded:



Copies of the report can be obtained from: <https://www.ukabif.org.uk/campaigns/appg-report/>

"ABI impacts on many government departments so a task force is required to address the issues and recommendations as a matter of urgency. The APPG on ABI intends to unite all the departments involved in order to drive change for brain injury survivors".

UKABIF provides the secretariat for the APPG on ABI and together with Chris Bryant is arranging meetings with various Ministers and representatives of key ministerial departments in order to move the recommendations forwards. An update of the progress of these meetings will be reported in the next issue.

Celebrating UKABIF's 20th Anniversary

UKABIF's 20th Anniversary was celebrated at the end of its conference with delegates attending a Champagne reception at London's Royal Society of Medicine.



UKABIF's 20th Anniversary Champagne reception took place in London last month.

Dr Andrew Bateman, UKABIF Chair said: "We're delighted that so many delegates, sponsors, members and Trustees are able to join us to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. We've achieved so much over the last 20 years, and this year we've certainly made a huge impression in the corridors of Westminster".

Michael Barnes Award for Innovation launched

UKABIF and Cambridge University's Brain Injury MedTech Cooperative (MIC) are jointly launching the Michael Barnes Award for Innovation in January next year.

The Award, named after UKABIF's ex-Chair, Professor Michael Barnes, in recognition of his contribution to the organisation's development over the last 20 years, will be supported by the National Institute for Health Research.

The Michael Barnes Award for Innovation will be open to individuals or organisations that make a difference in ABI. More information on the Award will be posted on UKABIF's website early next year.

UKABIF's successful 10th Annual Conference

Over 250 delegates attended UKABIF's 10th Annual Conference last month at London's Royal Society of Medicine. Dr Andrew Bateman, UKABIF Chair, welcomed delegates representing all aspects of brain injury management from the interdisciplinary neurorehabilitation team, commissioners, case managers, personal injury lawyers, social care workers, voluntary organisations, care providers to individuals living with a brain injury and their families.



Group (APPG) on Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) entitled 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation: Time for Change'. See page 1.

The UKABIF Award winners were announced at the end of the conference. The winners of the UKABIF Film Award 2018, kindly sponsored by Elysium Neurological, were Kathryn Cann for

the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Lauren Nicholas for the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability, Anne

Johnston and Jeremiah Humphreys-Piercy.

The Stephen McAleese Award for Inspiration, presented by Susan and John McAleese, went to Verity Fisher at the National Star College in Cheltenham (see below).

UKABIF would like to thank the conference sponsors Cygnet Health Care, Elysium, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, Leigh Day and Sintons Law, the many companies that exhibited and the people responsible for the excellent poster presentations.

The conference programme reflected the issues detailed in the recently published report by the All-Party Parliamentary

Verity Fisher receives UKABIF's Stephen McAleese Award for Inspiration

Verity Fisher, Physiotherapy Manager at the National Star College in Ullenwood near Cheltenham, was the recipient of this year's UKABIF Stephen McAleese Award for Inspiration. The Award was presented by John and Susan McAleese at UKABIF's 10th Annual and 20th Anniversary Conference in London.

One of Verity's greatest achievements has been the initiation and organisation of a ski trip to Andorra for the young people. The trip originated as a one-week trip for those with moderate physical disabilities, which was then rolled out to also include those with very complex disabilities. Verity has worked closely with the Andorra resort, ski school and airlines, as well as the Andorran ambassador, to ensure that all the young people at National Star College have the opportunity to learn to ski.

The ski trip is now a key element of the College therapeutic and education programme, with Verity taking a holistic, multidisciplinary team approach. Her work has been



Verity Fisher, Physiotherapy Manager, National Star College in Cheltenham received the UKABIF Stephen McAleese Award for Inspiration, presented by Susan and John McAleese.

recognised by many organisations, including Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, during inspections at National Star, and was recently

covered by the BBC breakfast programme.

Verity said: "The young people at the College have a wide range of physical disabilities, ABI and associated learning difficulties, and my work is about helping them achieve greater independence. I try to ensure that as many opportunities as possible are made available to our students".

Andrew Bateman, UKABIF Chair said: "Verity's innovation, enthusiasm and determination are a great inspiration. Her excellent work has also been carried through in the form of training packages which, alongside the publicity generated, will have a far wider impact in raising awareness of ABI".

Time to change neurorehabilitation in the UK

The focus of the UKABIF conference was the need for change in many aspects of neurohabilitation with speakers addressing some of the issues and challenges.



Colonel Alan Mistlin (pictured top left), Chair of the Clinical Reference Group for Rehabilitation and Disability opened UKABIF's conference by outlining the development and future of neurorehabilitation. "The current services are probably not what we would set up

now, but there's lots of work in progress" said Alan. The role of the updated Rehabilitation Prescription (RP) and its launch next April was discussed by Hannah Farrell (pictured left), University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.



Hannah said: "The RP

is not just a tick box exercise; it should be used for every patient with rehabilitation needs".

Chris Bryant (pictured top right) MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) spoke at the conference and highlighted the recently launched report 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation: Time for Change'. Chris emphasised his dedication to 'the cause' and said that the APPG is determined to unite government departments and drive change for brain injury survivors.

There is clear evidence of the different causality of brain injury between men and women in prison, with the females being at greater risk of repeated brain injury from domestic abuse. Dr Ivan Pitman, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT) discussed the findings from BIRT's Brain Injury Linkworker service in a women's prison. Professor Nathan Hughes, University of Sheffield said: "Recognising brain injury is key to being able to provide the right support in schools, to prevent



disengagement, exclusion and possible offending behaviour". Nathan discussed the issues surrounding the recognition and response to ABI and the discriminatory criminal justice processes, emphasising the need to change systems and processes to accommodate these young people.

"The cornerstone of disability law is that the employer has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for the employee" said Emma Satyamurti (pictured below), Leigh Day looked at the challenges of returning to work following a brain injury. Emma reviewed examples of 'reasonable adjustment' including a change of tasks, location, working hours and different approaches to managing absence and performance behaviour.



Dawn Astle concluded the formal conference programme by telling the story of her father, Jeff Astle, the English footballer nicknamed 'the King' by fans, who won five caps for England. Jeff was the first British professional footballer to die from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, aged just 59 years, and his daughter subsequently established the Jeff Astle Foundation to raise awareness of brain injury and to provide support to those affected.

Regional group focus

UKABIF has a network of regional groups around the UK that do a huge amount of work in communicating and supporting the organisation's work. The groups are self-governing and organise networking and educational events throughout the year. Contact details for each group can be found on the UKABIF website. This issue looks at just two of the groups:

North West and North Wales

The newly launched Northwest and North Wales Acquired Brain Injury Forum (NWNWABIF), is looking forward to a busy and interesting year which begins with the Forum's meeting focussing on the 'Time for Change' report. The meeting will hear from Dr Ivan Pitman, Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist from Liverpool's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT) and attendees will be asked to invite their MPs to come along. The Forum's Spring meeting will be at Liverpool's Walton Centre with Dr Kevin Foy, Consultant Neurologist and Dr Ganesh Bavikatte, Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant discussing minor ABI, and the often disregarded mental health difficulties suffered by ABI sufferers. In the summer the Forum is at the Salford Hospital for the much awaited hot topic of the Rehabilitation Prescription presented by Dr Krystyna Walton, President of the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant. In the Autumn the Group will be at BIRT in Liverpool to discuss ABI and the criminal system. The NWNWABIF is also in the process of lobbying MPs with regard to the 'Time for Change' report and trying to get their interest in attending meetings and making a change.

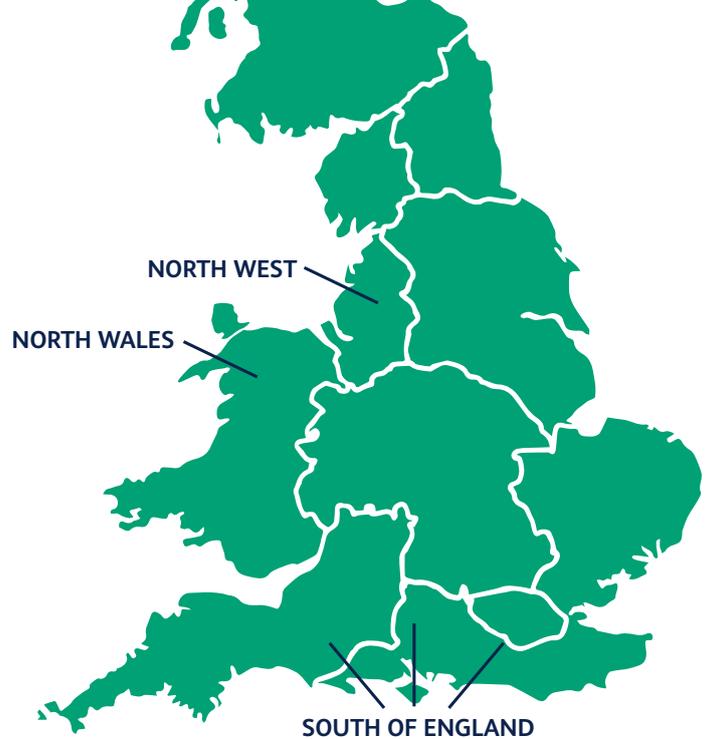
For more information, please contact:

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South of England Brain Injury Forum

The South of England Acquired Brain Injury Forum (SEABIF) was launched in September 2017. A second meeting, held in March this year, heard from Dr Steven Alder, Consultant Neurologist with the discussion focussing on the effectiveness of the Rehabilitation Prescription within the region, as well as hearing about the formation of the



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Acquired Brain Injury.

Following the meeting SEABIF's Steering Group was expanded to include Miranda Gardner, Brain Injury Nurse Specialist, Ryan Waters, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Ryan Cross, Neuro Occupational Therapist, and Heather Jury, Service Manager of Headway Basingstoke. This meeting was also the catalyst to SEABIF using social media to raise awareness of neurological educational events and neurological campaign issues within the region.

The South of England has a significant military presence and in September the Forum heard from Colonel John Etherington OBE about the medical and rehabilitation service provided by the Military, in contrast to the NHS, and what lessons can be learned.

SEABIF connects with its membership through regular e-mails, twitter, LinkedIn and a dedicated website:

Email: SEABIF@mooreblatch.com **Twitter:** @SEABIF

LinkedIn: SEABIF **Website:** www.seabif.com

SEABIF's next meeting will take place on 31st January 2019 at 6pm. The guest speakers will be Kit Malia and Anne Brannagan OBE. All are welcome and there is ample free car parking.

Advertising opportunities are available in the UKABIF News Report which is published biannually. To discuss these further, please contact Chloë Hayward Email: info@ukabif.org.uk Telephone: 0845 6080788

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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