



The United Kingdom
Acquired Brain Injury Forum

NEWS REPORT | March 2017

Nottingham Brain Injury Unit saved from closure threat

A victory for the public voice has ensured that the Brain Injury and Neuro-Assessment Unit will remain open at Nottingham City Hospital.



Heather Peacock

Heather Peacock, aged 24 years, from West Bridgford, who suffered a brain injury in a car accident in 2015, had been receiving treatment at the Unit when she learnt the service there was under threat. She instigated a local campaign, supported by UKABIF, to ensure that the excellent patient care she received would continue to be available to others.

The Unit provides specialist case management and rehabilitation services to people in the Nottingham area who have sustained a moderate or severe traumatic brain injury. The closure threat was part of a service review conducted by Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) who proposed an amalgamation of services for people with brain injury.

Commenting on the success of the campaign Heather said: "I can't quite believe it. This is amazing! All that campaigning was worth it. It just goes to show what you can achieve if you stick up for what's right. This way future patients will get the same amazing treatment that I've been able to receive".

Dr James Hopkinson, Clinical Lead, Nottingham North and East CCG said: "Patient, public and clinician feedback was always going to be integral to our commissioning decisions, and we're pleased we received such a huge response from patients and professionals via patient groups, our website and the patient experience team".



Can you produce a film that narrates the impact of an Acquired Brain Injury?

UKABIF launches 2017 Short Film Award

UKABIF launched its 2017 Short Film Award during this year's Brain Awareness Week (13-19 March).

The 2017 UKABIF Film Award is now open for entries and has a deadline of 29 September 2017.

Entrants are asked to produce a short, informative and 'must-see' five minute film about the impact of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) that will inspire and educate people about its consequences. The Award is open to UKABIF members and non-members in the UK, and entries are encouraged from the rehabilitation interdisciplinary team, doctors in primary and secondary care, case managers, personal injury lawyers, social care workers, voluntary organisations, care providers, as well as individuals with a brain injury, their families or carers, students and the general public.

The winning entry will receive £750 plus a trophy and the two runners-up will each receive £250.

For further information visit:
www.ukabif.org.uk/filmaward

KEY DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The UKABIF Annual Conference returns to London's Royal Society of Medicine – **Monday, 13th November 2017**

STOP PRESS: A highlights reel of the top entries from the 2016 Short Film Award is now available
www.ukabif.org.uk/filmaward

Prison Reform

CJABIIG responds to White Paper

The Criminal Justice Acquired Brain Injury Interest Group (CJABIIG), which serves to increase awareness of ABI within the criminal justice system, has responded to the 'Prison Safety and Reform' White Paper announced by the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service in November last year.

Commenting Professor Huw Williams, CJABIIG Vice Chair said: "We were disappointed by the report. It falls short of presenting a 'blueprint for change'. There is a worrying lack of attention given to neurorehabilitation, despite all the UK studies showing a 60% prevalence of brain injury among prisoners which can double the risk of offending."

CJABIIG also highlighted that the report failed to acknowledge the need for a clearer assessment of what has brought an individual into the criminal justice system. An accurate assessment is crucial for treatment management which could help to reduce reoffending, and possibly halt the current rise in violence and suicide.

The White Paper outlines how the government intends to transform prison from a place of punishment to one of reform, by giving prisoners the skills they need to become law-abiding citizens on release. Reoffending currently costs up to £15 billion per year so these changes could have a major cost impact. In a move away from Victorian-style prisons, the White Paper pledges to invest £1.3 billion in building modern facilities, centred on rehabilitation rather than containment. Prison governors will have more local control, and 2500 more prison officers may be employed within the next two years to reduce the prisoner to officer ratio. Staff will also receive additional training.

Findings from 'The Treatment of Young Adults in the Criminal Justice System', a recent report from the Justice Committee, does not appear to have informed the White Paper. This report makes numerous references to neurodisability and the need for a framework to address the issues. The Justice Committee found that the correlation between maturity and age is not necessarily positive, and that the 18-25 age group should be treated separately from the adult prison population.

Despite its shortcomings, the focus of the White Paper on preparing prisoners for their release is encouraging, and CJABIIG hopes to play a part in improving the prison service.

For the full CJABIIG response please visit <http://ukabif.org.uk/campaigns/> and click on the link to CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY INTEREST GROUP

Report highlights inadequate service provision and 'lost' patients

Yet again large variations in specialist rehabilitation services are highlighted in a new report produced by the National Clinical Audit of Specialist Rehabilitation following Major Injury (NCASRI).

The report, published in October last year, acknowledges that the absence of formal provision for specialist rehabilitation services when Major Trauma Centres (MTCs) were established in 2012 has not only resulted in large service provision variations, but also in a lack of service coordination for patients.

Entitled 'Specialist rehabilitation for patients with complex needs following major injury' the report was commissioned by the Healthcare Quality

Improvement Partnership (HQIP) in 2015, and funded by NHS England and the Welsh Government in Year 1, and by NHS England in Years 2 and 3. The report sets the scene, with subsequent reports determining the scope of specialist rehabilitation services required across England, to improve the quality of care for adults with complex rehabilitation needs following major trauma.

The report highlights the lack of capacity within existing specialist rehabilitation services and that many patients leave the MTC and never reach these services; they get 'lost' in the system.

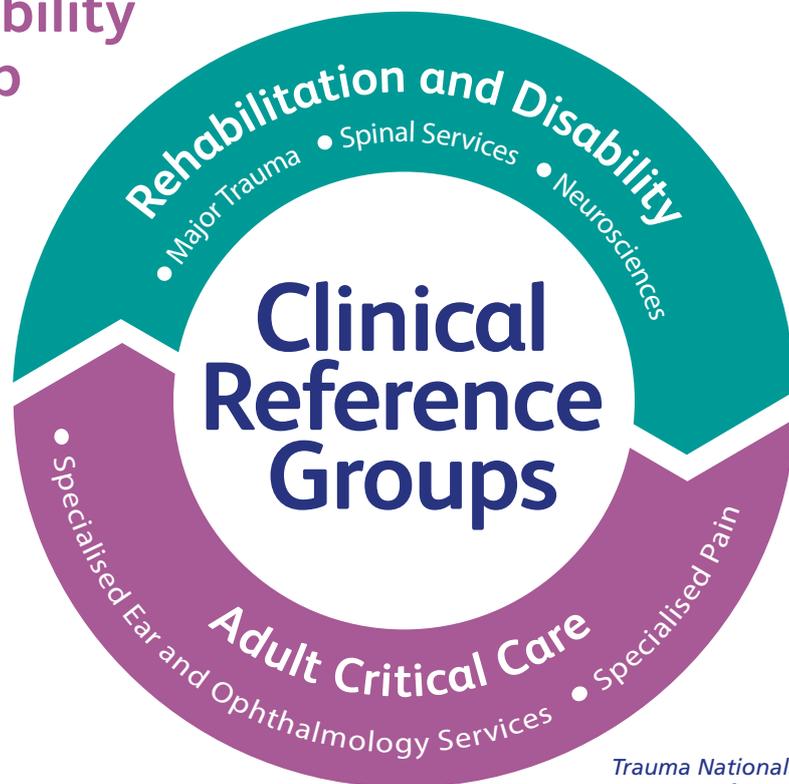
Rehabilitation and Disability Clinical Reference Group

UKABIF to represent the public/patient voice?

Last year specialised services commissioned by NHS England were grouped into six National Programmes of Care (NPoC), with each NPoC having several Clinical Reference Groups (CRGs) to provide clinical advice and leadership. These groups comprise clinicians, commissioners, public health experts, patients and carers and in theory use their specific knowledge and expertise to advise NHS England on the best ways that specialised services should be provided.

The trauma NPoC includes traumatic injury, orthopaedics, head and neck and rehabilitation and consists of an NPoC Board and seven CRGs.

CRGs lead on the development of clinical commissioning policies, service specifications and quality standards. They also provide advice on innovation, horizon scanning, service reviews and guide work to reduce variation and deliver increased value. CRGs, through their Patient and Public Voice (PPV) members, also help ensure that any changes to the commissioning of specialised services involve patients and the public.



Trauma National Programme of Care Clinical Reference Groups

UKABIF is currently in the process of applying to be a PPV member on the CRG. Professor Barnes, UKABIF Chair said: "I'm hopeful that this CRG can take a fresh look at the status of rehabilitation and provide sound innovative advice to NHS England on the best way that these specialised services should be provided. UKABIF could play a vital role as PPV member".

All Parliamentary Party Group on ABI to be reformed

The All Parliamentary Party Group (APPG) on ABI is being reformed under the chairmanship of Chris Bryant MP for Rhonda, Wales. Until June last year, Chris was Shadow Leader of the House of Commons.

The APPG on ABI will have three key objectives: firstly to raise awareness of ABI and seek improvements in support and services for people directly affected by ABI and also their families and carers. Secondly it will provide a voice for those who are not always heard by Ministers and MPs. Last but not least, the APPG on ABI will be the main forum for ABI in Parliament, raising

key issues across health, social care and welfare which all affect people living with ABI in the UK. The APPG will also collaborate with other key APPGs to pool and disseminate knowledge.

UKABIF has been driving this initiative as lobbying is clearly a priority for getting ABI on the health agenda. The hope is that the APPG on ABI could be launched in May this year.



John Glen



Chris Bryant

Acquired Brain Injury Alliance – better together

UKABIF has been successful recently in facilitating a meeting of the many organisations representing brain injury, with the goal that a combined voice can have a greater effect than just campaigning alone.

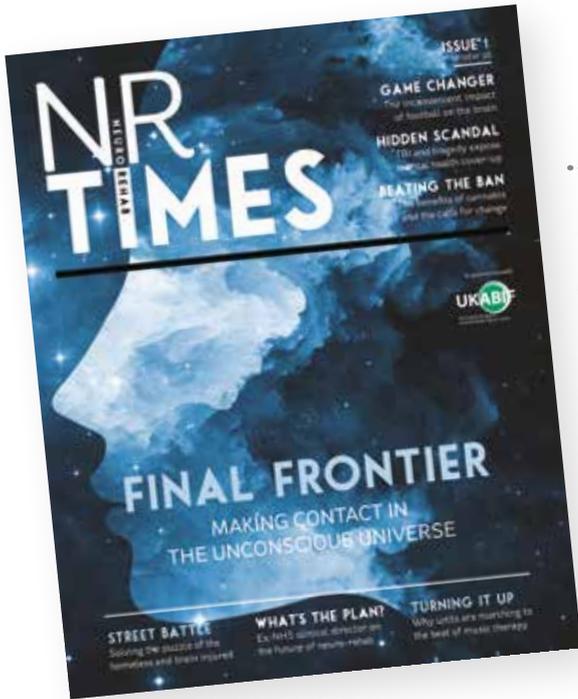
The newly named 'ABI Alliance' will be working on key issues surrounding ABI by raising awareness, highlighting the problems and lobbying for changes in services.

UKABIF Annual Conference

Monday 13th November 2017

Royal Society of Medicine, London

For more information and to register, please contact: info@ukabif.org.uk
or visit: www.ukabif.org.uk



Neuro Rehab Times launched

An exciting new publication, Neuro Rehab (NR) Times, has just been launched. It targets the many professionals working with brain and spinal injury clients across the UK.

This quarterly publication is produced in association with UKABIF, and is an important new resource that will enable all professionals to keep up with the very latest research developments and news in neurorehabilitation.

If you would like to advertise in the next issue please visit www.nrntimes.co.uk, or email info@nrntimes.co.uk for a media pack, or to find out how to be an NR Times partner.



Head and Brain Injury Signpost updated

The UKABIF Head and Brain Injury Information Signpost has been updated – www.ukabif.org.uk/signposttoheadandbraininjury

This web-based resource was originally produced in response to the demand for easy access to information for people with an ABI, their families and all professionals involved in their care and support.

The Head and Brain Injury Signpost is a collaboration between UNISON and UKABIF to support the latter organisation's continuing Campaign 'Life After Brain Injury – A Way Forward'. It provides a much needed pointer

to a wide range of information topics about head and brain injuries, from education and financial support, legal advice, local information centres, publications, support groups and helplines.

Advertising opportunities are available in the UKABIF News Report which is published biannually. To discuss these further, please contact Chloe Hayward Email: info@ukabif.org.uk Telephone: 0345 6080788

The United Kingdom Acquired Brain Injury Forum (UKABIF) aims to promote better understanding of all aspects of ABI; 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 on behalf of UKABIF
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