**Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the APPG on Less Survivable Cancers**

14th January 2025, 3pm, Room T

In attendance:

* Paulette Hamilton MP (Chair)
* Allison Gardner MP (Officer)
* Lord Moylan (Officer)
* Alison Bennett MP
* Dawn Butler MP
* Lord Fink
* Baroness Finlay
* Sharon Hodgson MP
* Patrick Hurley MP
* Clive Jones MP
* Carla Lockheart MP
* Katrina Murray MP
* Peter Prinsley MP
* Freddie van Mierlo MP
* Melanie Ward MP

Apologies from parliamentarians who would like to join the APPG:

* Lord Aberdare
* Steff Aquarone MP (Jacob Simkins attended in his place)
* Danny Beales MP
* Chris Bloore MP
* Paul Davies MP
* Josh Fenton-Glynn MP
* Adam Jogee MP
* Lilian Jones MP
* Charlie Maynard MP (Vice-Chair)
* Lola McEvoy MP
* Joani Reid MP
* Katie White MP

**Minutes**

1. **Welcome and introductions:**

Paulette Hamilton MP welcomed parliamentarians to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

1. **Election of officers:**

Lord Moylan proposed Paulette Hamilton MP as Chair of the APPG and Paulette was elected as Chair unopposed.

Paulette Hamilton proposed the following Officers of the APPG, who were elected unopposed:

* Charlie Maynard MP (Liberal Democrat): Vice Chair
* Lord Moylan (Conservative): Officer
* Alison Gardner MP (Labour): Officer

1. **Purpose of the group:** The group agreed the following purpose for the APPG Register:

*To create a forum to raise political awareness of issues affecting patients with a less survivable cancer – in particular cancers of the brain, liver, lungs, pancreas, oesophagus and stomach – and to advocate for actions to improve survival rates.*

1. **Discussion of workplan:** A suggested workplan was discussed and agreed (in appendix 1), focusing on:
   * A mini-inquiry into earlier detection and faster diagnosis in the spring (reporting in June / July)
   * A spotlight session on ‘Unlocking innovation: promoting a research-friendly environment for the less survivable cancers’
   * 2 additional spotlight sessions in the autumn / winter

This was agreed with the additional key issues to be included in relevant sessions:

* + Benchmarking outcomes against other countries and learning what interventions from international best practice could improve outcomes in the UK.
  + Consideration of how diagnoses are communicated to patients and how patient communication and information can be improved.

1. **Next steps:** Paulette Hamilton and the secretariat will formally register the group and be back in touch with all members with dates of upcoming meetings.

The Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce, a coalition coordinated by Pancreatic Cancer UK, will provide secretariat support to the Group.

Key contact: Abigail Bateman, abigail.bateman@pancreaticcancer.org.uk

Website: <http://lesssurvivablecancers.org.uk/all-party-parliamentary-group-on-less-survivable-cancers/> .

**Appendix 1: Proposed Work programme 2025/26**

**Mini-inquiry into Earlier Detection and Faster Diagnosis**

**Purpose**

The Secretariat proposes that the APPG launches a mini-inquiry into earlier detection and faster diagnosis of the less survivable cancers. **By focusing on this topic, the inquiry will cover some of the fundamental barriers to improving survival rates and ensuring that patients have access to better treatment and care.**

**The purpose of this inquiry is to:**

* Enable members to hear from experts, healthcare professionals, patients and officials to identify practical steps for earlier detection and faster diagnosis.
* Produce a set of practical recommendations to improve earlier detection and faster diagnosis of
* the less survivable cancers.
* Raise awareness of the less survivable cancers in Parliament to ensure they are a priority in the 10-year Health Plan and National Cancer Strategy.

**Timelines and Structure (End of Feb-June/July)**

We propose that the APPG hosts **two closed meetings** on the challenges facing earlier detection, and innovation in diagnosis. Following these sessions, the Group will **publish a mini-inquiry report** outlining the key findings and recommendations.

**Session 1: The challenges facing earlier detection of the less survivable cancers – screening and referral (Feb - March)**

This session is an opportunity for parliamentarians to understand the challenges to earlier detection and what **systemic changes** are needed to improve outcomes for the less survivable cancers. Examples will include surveillance and screening in high-risk groups as well as innovations in onward referral of people presenting with symptoms.

**Session 2: Innovating faster diagnosis of the less survivable cancers (April)**

MPs will have the opportunity to hear from leading researchers who are exploring innovative methods to accelerate faster diagnosis of the less survivable cancers. We will also invite healthcare professionals and NHS and DHSC officials to discuss how these technologies can be integrated into patient pathways.

**Report write-up (May- June)**

The Group will draft a mini-inquiry report outlining its findings and recommendations to enhance earlier detection and faster diagnosis. We will aim to secure media coverage surrounding the launch to raise awareness of the recommendations at a crucial time, as the Government cancer strategy will likely be being drafted during this period.

**“Spotlight” sessions:**

These sessions can take place throughout the year as an opportunity for members to hear more about issues of most importance to them. We propose **3 spotlight sessions.**

* Session 1: Unlocking innovation: promoting a research-friendly environment for the less survivable cancers
* Session 2: Joint meeting of relevant APPGs to discuss implementation of national cancer strategy with DHSC/NHS (i.e. APPGs on brain tumours, liver disease etc.)
* Session 3: Topic TBC

**Ideas for session 3 and/or future sessions:**

* Promoting greater access to treatment and care
* Health inequalities and their impact on the less survivable cancers
* Palliative care and the less survivable cancers
* Regional inequalities and the less survivable cancers
* Deep-dive sessions into specific cancers (e.g. the specific challenges associated with detecting brain tumours)
* The power of prevention in tackling the less survivable cancers