

## **Minutes of the APPG on Down Syndrome**

Meeting held online Wednesday 8 December 2-3pm.

Chaired by Matt Western MP & Dr Lisa Cameron MP

Attendees – Matt Western MP, Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Virendra Sharma MP, Flick Drummond MP, Stephen Morgan MP, Baroness Fall, Douglas Chapman MP, Ruth Jones MP, Christina Rees MP.

Apologies – Siobhan Baillie MP, Lord Alton, Stephen Timms MP, Meg Hillier MP, Jeremy Wright MP, Kerry McCarthy MP, Martin Vickers MP.

A number of the NDSFG Founding Officers had been invited to present their thoughts and Nicola Enoch and Ken Ross contributed in capacity of Secretariat to the APPG.

Matt Western welcomed members to the APPG and advised it to be a public meeting.

### **1 Update on Down Syndrome Bill**

Dr Liam Fox kindly updated the APPG on the progress of the Down Syndrome Bill.

The schedule for the Bill to progress is to go to committee in January. Lord Astor and Baroness Hollins have expressed commitment to aid the Bill through the House of Lords, with aim to be enacted for 21<sup>st</sup> March – World Down Syndrome Day.

Christina Rees asked about plans for Wales to adopt the Bill and Dr Fox advised currently not taken up by Welsh Parliament.

Founding Officers of the NDSFG had created a video which was shared in which they expressed their hopes and requested support of the Bill. James Carter, Heidi Carter & Ffion Angus each spoke confirming their support of the Bill.

### **2 Encouraging MPs engagement**

Lisa had suggested MPs be encouraged to pledge to commit to engage with constituents with Down syndrome and their families within constituencies across the UK, to provide people with Down Syndrome opportunity to feedback on the issues and concerns they have and priorities for the APPG to take forward. NE advised there is a network of support groups across the UK who can be encouraged to connect with their local MPs and invite to attend and meet with members and their families, as well as promoting on social media. NDSFG is in contact with the DSA and Mencap who will be asked to encourage people with Down syndrome to meet with their local MP individually or via local/regional groups.

Matt suggested MPs could encourage engagement through Parliamentary Groups

### **3 Areas of focus**

Ken Ross of the NDSFG kindly summarised the five areas the APPG is initially focussing on – maternity care, education, employment, social care, health care/research.

Lisa advised she has previously led a debate around Down Syndrome Day and suggested we do this again this year. She also suggested an Early Day Motion for this Day.

NE suggested the briefing documents on each topic are recirculated to officers and members.

Lisa suggested a meeting be arranged to discuss which Ministers should be invited to future meetings.

Future dates to be arranged

Update on the Bill early March & APPG strands of focus meeting in New Year.