



## **Defibrillator APPG Inaugural Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Time:** 9:45 am -10:15 am

**Location:** Room P, Portcullis House

**Chair:** Steve Darling MP

**Minutes taken by:** Max Strangleman-Sykes, DGA Group

### Members Present:

- Steve Darling MP (Chair)
- Blair McDougall MP
- Lord Aberdare
- Amanda Hack MP
- Jim Shannon MP
- Rachael Maskell MP
- Baroness Grey-Thompson

### External Guests:

- Parliamentary Assistant to Matt Bishop MP
- Ben Mitchell- DGA Group
- Tamsin Melville- DGA Group
- Max Strangleman-Sykes- DGA Group

### **Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting 9:45-10:15am**

- **Steve Darling MP** welcomed everyone to the room, quickly moving on to introductions where those present stated their name and role briefly.
- The group then moved to elect officers.
  - Steve Darling MP was elected as Chair of the group unanimously
- Vice Chairs & Officers were then elected as follows:
  - Lord Aberdare- Vice Chair
  - Connor Rand MP- Officer
  - Sir Gavin Williamson- Officer
- Secretariat approval then took place, with the secretariat explaining their role in helping the APPG form in 2021 and the work they have since undertook. The Secretariat was passed unanimously, with no dissent from members over DGA Group's role.
- The group moved on to discuss the work programme. The secretariat highlighted key recommendations from the March report, with the possibility of calling on government to



respond and take action upon it. They further outlined plans for a future Parliamentary drop in event which could focus on first aid training. Later in 2025, a larger parliamentary event could take place focused on cardiac arrest survivorship.

- **Amanda Hack MP** went on to mention that most supermarkets have defibrillators on the inside, rather than outside of buildings, and such a change would increase access very quickly. She further raised the issue of Defibrillators not being known to ambulance services- an issue in her own constituency of Leicestershire.
- **Steve Darling MP** outlined the idea of combining different types of cardiac arrest kits and asked the secretariat whether this had been a feature of the APPGs previous work.
- The secretariat mentioned it had been raised in previous sessions but could be a more forefront goal of the group.
- **Blair McDougall MP** added that defibrillator and First Aid training could be a prominent feature of future MP events, saying it is of great use to MPs and useful in promoting the APPG further in Parliament.
- The secretariat mentioned training has featured in previous drop-in sessions and agreed this could be useful for future events the APPG may hold.
- **Parliamentary Assistant to Matt Bishop MP** said that Mr Bishop would like defibrillator provision outside of schools rather than inside, adding that the closest Defibrillator for Mr Bishop personally was a 15-minute drive away.
- **Steve Darling MP** thanks members for attending and concluded the meeting