

All Party Parliamentary Group for Defibrillators

Defibrillator Access

Date: 24th April 2023

Time: 12.00 – 13.00

Chair: Jonathan Gullis MP

Minutes taken by: Tamsin Melville, DGA (Secretariat)

Members present:

- Jonathan Gullis MP (Chair)
- Baroness Finlay

Speakers :

- Ben Culff, sudden cardiac arrest survivor and defibrillator access campaigner
- David Ginola, former Premier League footballer, sudden cardiac arrest survivor and defibrillator campaigner
- Anne Jolly MBE and John Jolly, SADS UK Charity
- Naomi Issitt, Defibrillator campaigner
- James Cant, CEO Resuscitation Council

Audience:

- Lucy Hewitson Public Affairs British Heart Foundation
- Leah, Jonathan Gullis MP Parliamentary Assistant
- Michael O'Hara, Wendy Morton MP Parliamentary Assistant
- Tamsin Melville, DGA (Secretariat)
- Sonia Kharaud, DGA (Secretariat)
- Holly Ramsey, DGA (Secretariat)
- Olivia Arnold, DGA (Secretariat)

Minutes

Jonathan Gullis MP opened the meeting and introduced himself and the other members. He then welcomed the external speakers to the third APPG for Defibrillators session on Defibrillator access.

He spoke about the reason for the formation of the group and how the group aims to raise awareness of defibrillator access and help improve sudden cardiac arrest survival rates.

He then asked for the speakers to introduce themselves.

James Cant from Resuscitation Council introduced himself and said that cardiac arrest is the ultimate medical emergency. He emphasised that the single greatest determinant for survival is what people in emergencies do and that the early application of a defibrillator increases chances of survival by a third.

He added that most people who survive a sudden cardiac arrest receive a postcode lottery of cardiac arrest recovery treatment and they do not have a consistency of support who have gone through that experience.

Jonathan Gullis MP spoke about the previous APPG session on sudden cardiac arrest awareness survivors and the importance and impact of aftercare of sudden cardiac arrest.

Jonathan Gullis MP asked Lucy Hewitson about the work of the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

Lucy spoke about RevivR CPR training and how only half of adults feel confident using a defibrillator.

She added that The Circuit requires guardians of defibrillators to register.

Jonathan Gullis MP asked about whether it is up to the guardians to register their defibrillator.

Lucy confirmed that it is on the guardian to register.

James Cant from Resuscitation Council UK (RSUK) spoke about how defibrillators should be located in areas where they deliver the greatest need and social inequality is a huge element of defibrillator access.

He references how the University of Warwick is trying to research where they should map defibrillators.

Jonathan Gullis MP asked about BHF and RSUK working in schools and highlighted his experience with a teaching background.

James said that the timing of CPR training being on the curriculum in schools was terrible as it coincided with the pandemic.

He believes little but often information is the best way for maintaining the knowledge of CPR.

Baroness Finlay asked BHF if they are providing an incentive to buy a defibrillator and also what are they doing about defibrillator vandalism.

Lucy spoke about a new programme to help part fund and fully fund defibrillators where people will have to register their defibrillator on The Circuit and prove that they will help with educating communities on CPR and defibrillator usage.

Baroness Finlay believes there will be a maintenance problem especially regarding defibrillator casings.

Lucy said that community defibrillators have to have a cabinet and that they must be maintained. She also mentioned that they would ask guardians to keep their defibrillator cases unlocked which does cause an issue of vandalism but BHF believes that access is more important.

Baroness Finlay asked if they are able to remotely monitor the defibrillator cabinets.

Lucy said that they do have alarms and The Circuit will tell you if the defibrillator has been used in the last 24hrs.

Jonathan Gullis MP asked Naomi to share her experiences.

Naomi Issitt spoke about OurJay and accessible defibrillators in Rugby. They approached her local council in Rugby and asked how many accessible defibrillators there were in Rugby. She was told there were 48 defibrillators.

She then found out there were 7 defibrillators which were actually accessible. She stated that there is information missing in terms of The Circuit.

She mentioned how there was an internal cabinet which had expired on The Circuit which meant that the code was wrong and that there are communication issues with The Circuit and 999.

Jonathan Gullis MP said that from previous APPG sessions that people were told they were next to a cabinet but it was actually a much longer journey.

Jonathan Gullis MP asked David Ginola to share his own story.

David Ginola spoke of how the cause was close to his heart. He said that 7 years ago he was a victim of sudden cardiac arrest while he was playing a charity football match. His team mate saved his life and that was because he had learned CPR.

He spoke about The Circuit and how they aim to implement 100,000 defibrillators across the UK.

He said that every minute without CPR and a defibrillator, the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest diminishes.

He added that we need to improve sudden cardiac arrest survival and CPR training.

Mr Ginola said that he would suggest first aid training when people are doing their driving licence test alongside registering their defibrillators on The Circuit.

He thanked his team mate for saving his life.

Jonathan Gullis MP thanked David for sharing his story. He also asked, since he became a BHF Ambassador, what conversations he has had in terms of the quality of CPR training and the accessibility of defibrillators.

David Ginola said that people in France as well as other countries do not know CPR training as well as they should and he wants to improve this.

Specifically he wants people to have the intention to perform CPR.

He thinks teaching CPR in schools each year for kids and making sure they understand the importance of this is necessary. He said that by 2030 cardiovascular disease will be a great cause of death.

He spoke of defibrillators and referenced Naomi's point that the defibrillators did not work but he said that within The Circuit there are defibrillators which work but there needs to be 100 percent certainty.

David Ginola asked how many people know how to do CPR in the room.

He added that every time he asks this there are people who do not know how to do CPR and he thinks this is a major problem and it needs to change, adding that there should be more defibrillators everywhere.

Jonathan Gullis MP thanked David for his contribution. He agreed in terms of CPR training and then asked Naomi to share her story.

Naomi spoke of how her son, Jamie, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at 2am outside his school. He was surrounded by 15 adults who didn't know how to do CPR and her son's 17 year old friend had to

perform CPR for 17 minutes. She added that her son's high school had a defibrillator but the school was locked and his friend was unable to access it on the night of his sudden cardiac arrest.

Furthermore, the police officer who first arrived at the scene didn't have a defibrillator in his car when he thought he did. He then had to call another police officer to fetch another defibrillator which didn't reach him until 14 minutes after the initial call.

Naomi said that Jamie had 5 minutes to survive, and his friend carried on CPR for 19 minutes until the paramedics arrived.

Jamie's organs have been donated and that this was only possible because of the CPR.

She added that had the defibrillator been on the outside of the school Jamie would have survived.

Through her foundation, OurJay, Naomi has raised £77,000 to install defibrillators and the foundation is the guardians for the defibrillators. She said that defibrillator access shouldn't be down to families who have experienced it.

Naomi spoke of the impact of the sudden cardiac arrest for the witnesses and the policeman was off work for 6 months with PTSD as he was unable to access the defibrillator. She said that it is a situation which should never have happened and that now a 17 year old boy has died because of it.

She wants more funding and believes that these incidences shouldn't happen.

Jonathan Gullis MP thanked Naomi and said that it was very powerful and moving.

He asked if Police officers have defibrillators in their cars as standard practice.

Naomi said that she's meeting with West Midlands police and Warwickshire police and they are relying on the Metropolitan police. There are only 1 in 11 police cars have defibrillators.

She added that the policeman who arrived at the scene of Jamie's cardiac arrest, thought he had a defibrillator but it wasn't there. She said that if police are being sent as first responders to these scenes due to ambulance delays then they all need to have defibrillators.

Jonathan Gullis MP said that he would like to speak to Naomi and talk with Staffordshire police HQ to talk with the Police constable there to discuss defibrillators as a standard.

Naomi said that some police officers are concerned about the police having defibrillators as they don't want to be sent instead of ambulances. They don't want to be used as a second emergency service. She said that as ambulance delays aren't getting better, police will be turning up first and that defibrillators should therefore be standard equipment.

She said that accessible defibrillators need to be available.

Baroness Finlay thanked Naomi and added that they should put down a parliamentary question on how many cardiac arrests happened in last year in the UK occurred with ambulance delays of 5 minutes and what are the survival rates.

She wants to put questions in the House of Lords and House of Commons which will expose the issues.

In relation to defibrillator theft, Naomi says there is an insurance broker who can insure defibrillators for theft and damage, which is very rare.

She contacted the supermarket chain the Co-operative and asked why they don't have a defibrillator outside. They said that their defibrillators get stolen and vandalised and this isn't covered in insurance.

Baroness Finlay asked what the offence of damaging a defibrillator is.

Naomi added that it can be up to a life sentence if someone loses their life if a defibrillator has been vandalised and it is classed as criminal damage. But it largely depends on the circumstance of the crime.

Anne Jolly said that this is something which has been discussed and that it's very important as vandalism has been fairly light touch in the courts and that it should be counted as manslaughter.

Baroness Finlay said that this is something to raise in Parliamentary Questions.

Jonathan Gullis MP asked Anne to explain SADS.

Anne spoke of losing her son in 1998 during his sleep and set up the charity to research into cardiac arrest.

She said hospitals do not have the equipment to assess cardiac arrests.

She said in the 2000s it was important to raise awareness of defibrillators and Automated External Defibrillators as they entered the community.

She said she originally helped with getting defibrillators *in* schools and now they aim to get defibrillators *outside*.

There are issues surrounding mitigation and now it's similar to the Good Samaritan Act in the USA.

She spoke of the Big Shock campaign in 2010 and a parliamentary reception. She said that the Department for Education in 2005 said all schools should consider defibrillators in schools.

She spoke of her husband being a cabinet engineer, she said that the cabinets were very expensive when they were first brought out and he designed a cabinet which is a lot cheaper.

She praised The Circuit and said that it does have teething problems but it provides a network which is important.

She said a call handler who can have access and letting people know pads and batteries need replacing will be very useful.

Jonathan asked Anne and Naomi about aftercare following sudden cardiac arrest.

Anne said that the therapy she had was setting up the charity in 1998.

She wanted to support other people. They've spent £1000s on families with bereavement and also cardiac arrest.

Naomi echoed what Anne said. She said that she hasn't met with the hospital after 16 months and that they haven't provided support.

She said that the only support she had was setting up the OurJay foundation.

Jonathan Gullis MP was aghast with how Naomi had been treated and offered her his support.

Naomi said that her local MP Mark Pawsey had been supportive and helped with ensuring the council installed defibrillators.

Baroness Finlay said that given how generous Jamie had been with organ donation, she would have thought that the NHS Blood and Transplant authority oversee the transport programme in the UK and they should be able to support Naomi.

Jonathan Gullis said as Chair should be able to alert them of the request of a meeting with Naomi and the hospital.

Naomi said in her correspondence with Coventry University hospital there were 10 ambulances outside and there were handover delays which meant that they were delayed getting to Jamie's incident.

Jonathan Gullis MP said that he knows the area well and will be a voice to call this out. He added that as Chair, he should be able to alert them of the request of a meeting between Naomi and the hospital.

Jonathan Gullis MP asked Ben Culff to share his experience.

Ben spoke of his sudden cardiac arrest. He was 17 years old and it happened at Drayton Manor Hotel. Due to funding of the owners of the hotel it was lucky that there were defibrillators at the hotel.

It was fateful that community members decided to get a defibrillator.

Ben was giving 2 ambulances and was very lucky to survive.

He was given aftercare and was invited back to ICU as he had no memory of the event and he was able to look at the area where he was treated.

He said he was a special case in terms of the resources he was offered as well as how he turned out after a cardiac arrest. He was lucky that community members did CPR and used a defibrillator.

Since his cardiac arrest, he has been campaigning and took part in a documentary with BBC called 'How not to die from a sudden cardiac arrest'.

He did filming with the British Red Cross to do short videos on CPR and defibrillators.

He explained that he believed technology is the future. He introduced a device called CellaED - a portable solution and explained how this would be a solution for police to have in their cars.

He said that CellaED is a fraction of the price of original defibrillators and that it is the size of a chocolate bar which you can snap, peel and stick.

Ben spoke of how Rapid Response Revival has pledged 10,000 defibrillators to the UK and want to deliver 200,000 in the UK over the next two years.

He said that the UK is lacking in support for cardiac arrest and believes CellaED is one solution which can be added to a roster of solutions to increase defibrillator access.

Jonathan thanked the speakers for attending.

Baroness Finlay asked Ben about the CellaED and was very intrigued with the device. She asked whether they are reusable.

Ben spoke about how they are single use devices.

Baroness Finlay asked if there was a read out available to the paramedics when they arrive.

Ben said that it can speak out to you and give you instructions but was unsure if it offered a read out.

Jonathan Gullis MP said that with something the size of a CellaED there is no reason why every classroom can't have one. Baroness Finlay also said that every car could also have one.

Ben said fire extinguishers are mandatory in every business and likened this to the need for a solution around sudden cardiac arrests, saying the CellaED is a great solution for this and that every business could have one.

Ben said that with the cost of replacing pads now costing £200 then it makes sense to purchase a cheaper defibrillator.

Naomi said that their foundation have portable defibrillators in lorries and electrician vans but they are £750 apiece.

She said that this is good but if there is a more affordable solution, why can't we have them in coaches and taxis or delivery vans.

Jonathan Gullis MP added that first aid should be added to driving licence requirements and this should also be advocated for.

Jonathan Gullis MP shares an office with the Minister for Roads and will be raising this with him.

David Ginola said that rather than searching for defibrillators, we should all have one. He agreed with Ben that putting the price and size of defibrillators down is common sense.

Jonathan Gullis MP thanked all the speakers for attending the session.

Meeting closed.