**All Party Parliamentary Group for Defibrillators**

*Defibrillator Supply Chain Shortages*

**Date**: 23rd January 2023

**Time:** 11.30 - 12.30

**Chair**: Jonathan Gullis MP

Minutes takes by: Tamsin Melville, DGA (Secretariat)

**Members present**:

* Stephen Hammond MP (Vice Chair)
* Lord Aberdare
* Lord Moynihan

**Speakers**

* James Cant, CEO, Resuscitation Council
* Steve Fereday, Vice-Chair, of the British Healthcare Trades Association
* Mark King, Founder, Oliver King Foundation

**Audience:**

* Esther Kuku, Resuscitation Council
* This Generation, representatives
* Jonathan Gullis MP Parliamentary Assistant
* Ruth Edwards MP Parliamentary Assistant
* Tamsin Melville, DGA (Secretariat)
* Sonia Kharaud, DGA (Secretariat)
* Holly Ramsey, DGA (Secretariat)
* Olivia Arnold, DGA (Secretariat)

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Stephen Hammond MP** opened the meeting on behalf of Jonathan Gullis and introduced himself and the other members. He then welcomed the external speakers to the first Defibrillator APPG on Supply Chain Shortages.

He spoke about the reason for the formation of the group and the impact of Sudden Cardiac arrest.

He then asked for the speakers introduce themselves.

**James Cant** introduced himself as CEO of Resuscitation Council who are seen as the kite mark organisation for resuscitation.

**Steve Fereday** introduced himself as Vice Chair of the British Healthcare Trades Association.

**Martin King** introduced himself as founder of the Oliver King Foundation.

**Stephen Hammond MP** asked the speakers to discuss the issues of resuscitation.

**James Cant** from resuscitation council introduced the issue of sudden cardiac arrest and discussed how 80% of sudden cardiac arrest affects family members.

He added that the first several stages of the chain of survival is imperative and early use of defibrillators can not only double the chance of survival but also increase quality of survival.

He welcomed the groups formation and championed the investment in the sector from the Government into defibrillators for schools. He said if the industry could work together then the UK could match the leading survival rates in countries such as Scandinavia. He continued to say that if we need to look at SCA as a societal issue not just clinical. He said defibrillators need to be rescue ready in terms of consumables and he hopes that it will be resolved.

He said in terms of wider context of defibrillators, we are at a ‘tipping point.’

**Steve Fereday** introduced himself as Vice-chair of the British Healthcare Trades Association.

He said they have a large facility in Birmingham and Netherlands and that he is a chair of BHJ which has a Defibrillators committee.

In his profession he deals with manufacturers of defibrillators and said that in the last two years they have experienced supply issues.

He said it’s been difficult in the last 12-18 months. But the picture is getting better and that if you want to buy a defibrillators now you can get one however he said particular brands are struggling.

He added that they have defibrillators in stock, which have varied lead times with manufacturers. He said that he had problems of getting hold of pads and batteries at one stage but it has improved. He thinks this was due to freight and containers and the cost of containers which is now solving itself.

He continued, that manufacturers have blamed the defibrillator supply shortage on two things. Firstly, there is an increase in demand worldwide (he believed this could be due to footballer, Christian Eriksson) and it is due to a worldwide shortage in Microchips.

However, he said courier manufacturers have improved with their lead times.

More competition – which he thinks is a good thing. But he said overall the picture is getting better but it’s still not good in many places.

**Mark King** spoke of his son Oliver and the formation of the Oliver King Foundation .

He spoke of the recent schools legislation and thinks that defibrillators should be as common as fire extinguishers.

He said that the more people familiarise themselves with them on scene the better and he also commented that it should be easier to legislate to increase the supply of defibrillators.

**Stephen Hammond** **MP** thanked the speakers and asked a question to James and Mark – and talked about the step up in public awareness and if there’s been an increase in organisations requesting CPR and AED training?

**James Cant** said he didn’t have the data on him but he said that during a cardiac arrest, a few minutes makes all the difference. He said countries with the best survival rates use CPR as well as defibrillators. He referenced how the Netherlands do ‘light touch training’ every year, which means that people are taught CPR and AED usage every ‘little and often’.

He said we need to make sure that the public need to know where the Defibrillator is located and how to use it.

He talked about how sports days and driving tests are ideal events to introduce CPR and AED training.

He spoke about how the seed of knowledge can achieve mass action and that the UK is at a critical tipping point in terms of legislation.

**Mark King** said he agreed with James Cant. He spoke about the training the Oliver King Foundation provides in schools and how it’s important to have confidence to use the defibrillator.

He said that the training is usually takes roughly 1-2hrs but said the most important part was to take the fear factor out of it.

**Stephen Hammond** **MP** asked Steve Fereday about pricing points and new defibrillator products.

**Steve Fereday** said that there’s been inflation in the marketplace with price rises from 8-10% . He said that it sometimes feels like ‘buying a car rather than a life saving device’.

He said that there has been significant inflation and that there’s different technologies but we are lacking entry level products and lower price defibrillators.

**Stephen Hammond MP** asked what does a typical entry level costs (to end user)?

**Steve Fereday** said that at one point it cost £600-650 but now it is £700-750. He said that defibrillator prices can keep increasing and they all have different specifications at entry level.

He added that he knows of others coming into the marketplace which should be at a lower the cost.

**Lord Aberdare** asked a question on how schools are important and that they have a captive audience as first aid is on the school curriculum. He was interested in James comment on driving test and asked how can we get the wider public trained?

He also asked about defibrillators – and he spoke of the CellAED defibrillator and he said the price point is something in the £300.

He asked how the CellAED fits within the market?

**James Cant** spoke about the wider public, specifically the Pillow Partners campaign, which is where you take a pillowcase and football and teach people about CPR.

He said that it also creates a conversation and 80% of cardiac arrest happen at home, therefore teaching children is important to help with rescue attempt.

In terms of cheaper Defibrillators, he said that Resuscitation council want to highlight the disparities in defibrillation, specifically for families who want to have defibrillators in their homes. But he doesn’t want there to be unintended consequences. Ultimately, he wants to facilitate organisations with funding and hope they can do that.

**Steve Fereday**- spoke about the CellAED and how they can bring defibrillators to the home. He spoke about the CellAED’s subscription model.

However, he said we need public access defibrillators in the neighbourhood. So that there is defibrillators coverage within a 2-minute radius. He stated that public access defibrillators are important, but he also said that there is a place for personal defibrillators. Especially for people who suffer with angina etc. There’s potential to prescribe these home defibrillators if you need.

**Lord Moynihan** – spoke about how he is committed to get government to prioritise what they said they would in terms of defibrillator access.

He wanted to speak about more public access to defibrillators in community sports schemes etc.

**Stephen Hammond** **MP** wanted to ask Mark King about legislation and what he would like to see.

**Mark King** said that it’s taken 11 years of campaigning to get legislative results. He wants community access defibrillators and for defibrillators to be located next to fire extinguishers with good signage.

**Stephen Hammond** **MP** asked James Cant how much data he had specifically on sports clubs and cardiac arrest.

**James Cant** answered that he didn’t currently have the data but could provide the group with it afterwards.

He added that he wants to increase access and awareness of where defibrillators can be found.

He asked that the government should put defibrillators *on* schools rather than *in* schools. He said that its often members of the public that use the defibrillators and if we put defibrillators in schools then they’re not accessible as schools are closed during the holidays or outside of opening hours.

He said he was glad regarding the government announcement to install defibrillators in schools but wants the defibrillators to accessible to everyone not just those who are in the school/

**Lord Aberdare** spoke about defibrillators in telephone boxes.

**James Cant** said that defibrillators in telephone boxes happen nationwide but, on an ad-hoc basis. He said the main priority is to make sure that there is little thinking time possible when a cardiac arrest happens, to make sure that we can reduce the time in-between CPR and defibrillators.

**Esther** from Resuscitation Council said that she is working with BT over the last year to train their staff and they have defibrillators on every floor. She added that Resuscitation Council is planning to roll out campaign awareness dates 3 times a year, rather than just ‘shocktober’. She added that Resuscitation have also worked with Brentford football club as well as a working with football clubs across the UK.

**James Cant** added that Resuscitation Council have a QR code in the shape of heart on Brentford football club shirts.

He said that they want all the clubs to have some sort of recognition to raise awareness.

**Lord Moynihan** said that one of the problems he’s finding is that the amateur sports community clubs do not have comprehensive CPR and AED training.

He said that’s important to train people at all levels and that when it comes to community places then it's important to focus on training them there.

**Stephen Hammond MP** agreed. He spoke about how organisations have a safe guarding officer. He said people get access to support informally however it needs to facility providers.

He then asked Steve about the Government’s defibrillators in schools promise and the current supply chain and whether the government is likely to fulfil 20,000 defibrillators in 2023.

**Steve Fereday** said that it is probably going to be ok. He said the tender came out from a strange framework, which was a PPE framework. He spoke to manufacturers, and he said that 70% of them could not make the specifications set out in the tender.

He said that there are most likely to be three manufacturers who can meet that requirement. However, he added that it would take that manufacturer out of their other supply commitments in the marketplace.

However, Steve thinks it will be fulfilled but he is still hesitant.

He concluded that he thinks defibrillators should be public access as schools are closed for long periods of times.

**Lord Aberdare**- spoke about the circuit. He asked how can you find out where the nearest defibrillators are located?

**James Cant** said that the first thing you do is phone 999. Then you should make sure that the person receiving the advice, knows where the defibrillators are.

**Lord Aberdare**- asked about the construction sector.

**Steve Fereday** – spoke about how his business has 4,000 distributors. He said that major construction companies do get involved and that he’s given advice to big building companies and that every big organisation is aware of the importance of defibrillators however, small business struggle to buy them, as it is a major financial purchase.

He spoke about how reducing or removing the VAT on defibrillators would reduce the cost to purchase defibrillators for these small businesses.

**Lord Aberdare**- spoke about the Building safety bill as well as the construction playbook not having any current legislation which includes the mandating of defibrillators in buildings.

He said that there should be an expectation that all buildings within a certain size or scale should have a defibrillator.

**Mark King**- said that virgin trains have defibrillators on them and that the buildings should also have a mandate.

**Stephen Hammond MP** – asked if the speakers had any recommendations on who should we have at our next meeting.

**Mark King** – said that the group should involve paramedics.

**James Cant** - said paramedics are imperative and that it’s a public health purpose.

He wants to ensure inclusion in terms of training and access.

He asked, that in the longer term – who are the people with the messaging who can share & spread the ‘simple but lifesaving’ message.

He asked what organisations have that reach and communication?

**Stephen Hammond MP** – thanked the speakers for attending the session and said that the group has heard Mark’s message to ask and remind the government of other commitments.

He concluded that the secretariat will send the recording to colleagues who weren’t able to attend.

Meeting closed.