



Working with Parliament

Dr Jon Goldin

Vice Chair, CAP Faculty

**Lead for Parliamentary Engagement,
RCPsych**

Overview

- **Why do it?**
- **How parliament works/ APPG**
- **Topical Issues**
- **Lobbying politicians**
- **Parliamentary Scholars Programme**

Why do it?...

- **Lobby for change/improvements/funding**
- **Influence public debate on mental health issues**
- **Increase engagement in MH issues/raise profile**
- **Inform and provide accurate information**
- **Educate**
- **Reduce stigma**
- **Advocate for our patients/colleagues**
- **Rewarding, diverse, interesting**
- **'Make a Difference'**

Parliament

- **Makes laws, debates issues, represents views of people across UK, checks and challenges Government**
- **Government leads on running the country**
- **Elected House of Commons (650 Constituencies)**
- **Unelected House of Lords (mostly Life Peers). No one party in control.**
- **Monarch – Mostly Ceremonial, signs laws**
- **Parliamentary Select Committees – scrutinise work of Govt, ask experts and the public for their views.**

APPG Mental Health



- **RCPsych helps coordinate this cross-party group of MPs and Peers who have a particular interest in promoting the mental health agenda in Parliament.**
- **The group regularly hosts events to:**
 - **hold the Government to account on their mental health strategy**
 - **inform other parliamentarians about key mental health policy issues**
 - **call on NHS organisations, health professionals, research bodies and people with experience of mental illness to give evidence at their meetings.**

Topical Issues

- **NHS Funding Bill**
- **NHS 10 Year Plan**
- **Social Media – Online Harms White Paper April 2019**
- **Workforce/Recruitment/Retention**
- **MHA Review – White Paper promised**
- **Social Care**
- **Brexit (Today!)**

NHS Funding Bill

- **Second Reading of the NHS Funding Bill was on 27th January 2020.**
- **The Royal College of Psychiatrists proposed an amendment to this Bill, to guarantee that NHS spending on mental services continues to increase until we have reached full financial parity between mental and physical health.**
- **Mental illness represents up to 23% of the total burden of ill health in the UK but only 11% of NHS England's budget.**

NHS Long Term plan

- **By 2023/24 - at least an additional 345,000 children and young people aged 0-25 will be able to access support via NHS funded mental health services and school or college- based Mental Health Support Teams.**
- **Goal for the next decade - 100% of children and young people who need specialist care can access it.**
- **More investment in children and young people's eating disorder services.**

NHS Long Term plan (cont)

- **Increase of age-appropriate crisis services**
- **Mental health support for children and young people will be embedded in schools and colleges**
- **Increased support for student mental health provided by Universities**
- **Service model to focus on person-centred care**

Lobbying politicians

- **Different Techniques**
- **Face to face**
- **Party conferences/Panels/Roundtables**
- **Email**
- **Via Media (TV/Radio/Print/Online)**
- **Social Media**
- **Importance of good Comms/Policy Teams**

Do's and Don'ts

Do

- **Treat MP's with respect**
- **Be confident, persistent, diplomatic and tactful**
- **Be clear re your message**
- **Seek allies and nurture them**

Don't

- **Not too party political**
- **Not overly opinionated**
- **A politician will never forget if you humiliate them in public**

Parliamentary Scholars Programme



- **ST4-6 trainees can spend one day/week at House of Lords**
 - **4 trainees/year, different sub-specialties**
 - **Opportunity to develop leadership/other skills necessary to influence policy on MH matters**
 - **Applications by end May, Interviews June or July 2020.**
 - **Next programme starts Oct 2020**
- April 2018
- **Baroness Sheila Hollins set up scheme**

Thanks for listening
@DrJonGoldin