

# **APPGA: AGM 2018 Minutes**

18<sup>th</sup> October, 14:30-15:30



**Attendees:** Dame Cheryl Gillan MP (Chair), Daniel Zeichner MP, Mike Wood MP, Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Thangam Debbonaire MP, Daniel Zeichner MP, Kemi Badenoch MP, Huw Merriman MP's staff, Sarah Lambert, David MacKenzie, Tim Nicholls, Rosy Roche

**Apologies:** There were no apologies noted.

## **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Dame Cheryl opened the meeting and led the introductions. It was noted that the AGM was quorate. She told the Group that Sarah Lambert would be leaving her position as Head of Policy and Public Affairs at the National Autistic Society after 10 years with the charity to take up a new role with the Royal National Institute of Blind People at the end of October. She placed on record her thanks to Sarah for all her work with the APPG and wished her success in the future.

## **2. Election of the Chair and Officers:**

- Dame Cheryl was re-elected as Chair of the APPGA.
- Lord Touhig and Jonathon Reynolds were re-elected as Vice Chairs.
- Thangam Debbonaire, Huw Merriman, Christina Rees, Cat Smith, Baroness Uddin, Lord Warner and Baroness Hollins were all re-elected as Officers.
- Dr Lisa Cameron, Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, and Mike Wood were also elected as Officers.

## **3. Income and Expenditure Statement**

The statement was unanimously approved by the Group and signed by Dame Cheryl.

## **4. Presentation from Sarah Lambert – Autism Act, 10 years on work**

Sarah highlighted that 2019 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Act, and that this is also the next milestone year for reviewing the strategy's implementation (the previous review was in 2013/14). She said that this provided a key opportunity to look at what has changed 10 years on, to restate the importance of the Act to make sure duties are being followed, but also to campaign for further changes. She said that she thought the APPGA could use this opportunity to lead a review of the current state of care and support for autistic children and adults and to secure additional support and funding. She suggested inquiry sessions on the following themes:

- Public understanding of autism
- Children's services, education and transition
- Health and mental health
- Support in adulthood
- Employment
- Criminal Justice

These sessions were agreed to and it was further agreed that Thangam Debbonaire MP would lead on employment, Mike Wood MP would lead on children's services, education and transition, and Dame Cheryl would lead on "support in adulthood". It was noted that further work needed to be done to identify MPs who would lead on the other themes and that the NSA would work to identify MPs before the end of the year.

## **5. AOB**

There was no further business. Cheryl thanked everyone for attending and let them know that the minutes and all other relevant papers would be posted on the APPG website.

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