

Charity founder addresses Parliament



EXPERT: Clair Chilvers, from Notts Healthcare NHS Trust, co-founded Mental Health Research UK.

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Funding plea by mental illness charity

A CHARITY set up by a Notts professor to research the causes of mental illness and possible cures, is to plead for more funding in Parliament.

Chairman of Notts Healthcare Trust Professor Clair Chilvers set up Mental Health Research UK less than a year ago along with two barristers.

It is the first charity in the country dedicated to paying for mental health cause and cure research and aims to eventually be as big as Cancer Research UK.

Prof Chilvers has now been invited to a round table discussion at the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Medical Research at the House of Commons on Wednesday.

The breakfast discussion, hosted by Norman Lamb MP, will include other experts in mental health as well as members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Prof Chilvers said: "I'm going along to talk about Mental Health Research UK and our campaign to get 1,000 members.

"There isn't another dedicated research charity to do with mental illness and this is a really good opportunity for

By TANYA HOLDEN

us. I've never spoken at the House of Commons before so it's going to be a new experience."

The group has no formal place in the legislature but has been set up to help influence politicians.

Prof Chilvers said: "We are taking small steps but my ambition is to eventually be really, really large.

"Cancer Research UK gives out about £300m a year and in the long term I hope we will be giving out as much.

"But in the short term, if we can raise a couple of million we can begin making some research grants."

Campaign

The charity was set up by Prof Chilvers with medical law barristers John Grace QC and Dr Laura Davidson.

It began a campaign last month to recruit 1,000 supporters willing to pledge between £10 and £20 a month.

By recruiting 1,000 supporters and using gift aid it is hoped at least £150,000 can be raised each year.

● To become one of the first 1,000 supporters of Mental Health Research UK e-mail trustees@mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk for details.

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