

DR. RICHARD TAYLOR MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

THE PROTON EFFECT

The needs of two Wyre Forest residents for Proton Beam therapy, a very effective form of treatment for rare tumours only available abroad, came to my notice some time ago when a member of the armed forces required it. After negotiation the Ministry of Defence agreed to pay. When the second patient, Jackie Jennings a civilian, came to my notice there was no mechanism for finding the large amount of money required for this life saving treatment.

Local people stepped in to help and The Proton Effect was born to support the Jackie Jennings Appeal. The necessary funds were raised with tremendous help from our own Robert Plant and Jackie received and completed her treatment in the USA successfully.

Now The Proton Effect plans to raise its profile and continue the efforts of local people to help local people.

Hopefully financing Proton Beam therapy will not be necessary again as in the new cancer plans it has been recognised that NHS funds must be available for this highly specialised treatment. As it is unlikely that there will be enough UK patients to justify the provision of the equipment necessary for this treatment here, I hope and believe that arrangements for funds to be provided readily by the NHS for treatment abroad will be set up. Wyre Forest's two patients have helped to ensure this.

So now The Proton Effect can direct its energies to help other deserving local people.

I will support their efforts in any way I can.

Richard Taylor

April 2008.