

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

29th June 2017

Jean Constant
RE: MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of mental health in schools.

Half of all mental health problems in the UK start by the age of 14. At such a young age, mental health issues can have a lifelong impact and can potentially affect school performance. It is therefore incredibly important that children and young people are provided with the help and support they need to grow up feeling confident about themselves and their future.

I am encouraged that the Prime Minister is seeking to fully address the issue and has announced a comprehensive package of measures to transform support in schools, workplaces and communities. These proposals include an additional £1.4 billion on mental health support for young people by 2020-21.

I know that there is also a focus on strengthening links between schools and local NHS mental health staff. For example, I am aware that the Department for Education is investing £1.5 million in piloting a joint training programme with NHS England for schools and specialist services, to help them work together effectively at the local level. This is being extended to up to 1,200 more schools. I also welcome that every secondary school in the country is to be offered free Mental Health First Aid training. This will enable staff to better spot the signs of mental health problems that young people may face. By 2020, it is expected that every secondary school will have one Mental Health First Aid trained member of staff.

I am also encouraged by proposals for a major review of children and adolescent mental health services across the country, led by the Care Quality Commission. This will be followed by a new Green Paper on the issue. The Department for Education also plans to pilot preventative measures to mental health promotion and prevention in select schools.

It is essential that as a society we seek true parity for mental and physical health and I believe that the Prime Minister's proposals will ensure young people receive the right care in the right place, and when they need it most.



Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

Tom

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

I am also a big believer that sport can do much to help with both physical and mental wellbeing - a point I again raised in the House today, in encouraging more joined-up work across government to boost participation.