

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th October 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Save the Children's campaign.

The Social Mobility Commission report analyses four life stages: early years, schools, young people and the world of work. I am encouraged that the report supports a number of new policies, including T levels, apprenticeships and accountability reforms for further education colleges.

I know that social mobility is a key priority for the Department for Education and a lot of hard work is being done to address this. I welcome the £72 million Opportunity Areas programme which was introduced last year to bring together local businesses, schools and councils in 12 social mobility 'cold spots' across the country to create better opportunities for young people.

91 percent of early years providers were rated as good or outstanding in 2016, compared to 74 percent in 2012. The quality of staff is particularly important for supporting the development of disadvantaged children. It is encouraging that the gap between the development of disadvantaged children and their peers at age 5 is narrowing, but more must be done to ensure all children get the best start in life.

Children develop rapidly in their early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five will have a major impact on their future life chances. That is why high quality early learning is so important, and why the *Early Years Workforce Strategy* was published in March 2017. I am glad that it set out the Department for Education's commitments to support the development of a well-qualified early years workforce with the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to deliver high quality early education and childcare for children from birth to age five.

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

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