

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th March 2018

Jew Constituent,

RE: DANGEROUS RESTRAINT IN HOSPITALS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the use of dangerous restraint on young people with mental health conditions.

I appreciate the concerns raised by the Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Steve Reed MP, which I was delighted to be in the House to support at Second Reading. It is greatly concerning that children, in mental health units, are being subject to dangerous restraint techniques. I hope you are assured by the announcement of the independent review into the *Mental Health Act*. This review will specifically address issues regarding detention, and how recent practice can be out of step with a modern mental health system which must be responsive to the needs of service users and families. As I understand it, the Government expects some of the solutions to lie in practice, leadership, and culture, as well as potentially legislation.

You will be pleased to know that on the 3rd November 2017, this Bill was supported by the Government, and passed its Second Reading unanimously. This Bill will be next considered by MPs in a Public Bill Committee on a future date, and I am delighted to have been asked to serve on it.

I am encouraged that the Government has announced reform to mental health policy in the latest Queen's Speech, in order to continue to reduce the number of people detained in police cells under the *Mental Health Act*. You may be pleased to know that in October 2017, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would embark on a comprehensive review of the *Mental Health Act*, which has remained unchanged for more than three decades. This review will examine existing practices, and address the disproportionately high rates of detention of people from ethnic minorities. I am happy to note that the review will be led by Professor Sir Simon Wessely, a former President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and he will consider the needs of all users of mental health services and their families, and improve the system's support for those during a mental health crisis.

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 PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE