

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9<sup>th</sup> July 2018

*Tom Pursglove*

**RE: MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE.**

Thank you for contacting me recently about social care for people with multiple sclerosis; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I appreciate that those suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS) may require specific long-term social care needs, and I believe it is essential that any social care system sensitively considers those suffering from MS.

Those suffering from long-term conditions, such as MS, may be eligible for the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The PIP is designed to offer claimants the correct level of care for their needs, which focuses on an individual's ability to carry out key every day activities, and this system includes regular reviews, so those suffering from long-term conditions are appropriately supported by the care and welfare system. Alternatively, those with MS may be eligible for direct payments for care from their local authority, which contribute to the funding of care, and paying for carers.

It must be noted that MS is a spectrum condition, and a blanket approach to MS and social care cannot be appropriately applied. Therefore, as well as providing effective support for those with MS, I believe it is right that the Department of Health and Social Care works in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions to assist those with MS find effective employment and independence, appropriate for their condition.

You may be pleased to know that the Government has recently completed a consultation entitled 'Improving Lives', a Green Paper into work, health, and disability, which intends to help those with long-term health conditions into well-supported employment, where appropriate, and improve their health.

In addition, in 2017, the Chancellor committed an additional £2 billion to councils in England over three years to spend on adult social care services. Councils will have access in total to £9.25 billion more dedicated funding for social care over the three years from 2015, and this has been further supported by an additional £150 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government this year. I am also happy to note that the Autumn Budget provides £42 million additional funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant in 2017-18, to support people with disabilities to stay in their own homes throughout their care. This investment is central to the Government's efforts to reduce delayed transfers of care from the NHS to social care, and free up thousands of hospital beds.

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**