

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

14th November 2018

Dear Constituent,

RE: END OF LIFE CARE.

Thank you for contacting me recently about the care and support available for those at the end of their lives; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I agree that it is incredibly important to respect the wishes of terminally ill people, and enable them to come to the end of their lives in their own homes, where possible. I hope I can assure you that the Government is making every effort to help people pass away at home if they want to do so.

Marie Curie offers incredible care and support for people at the end of their lives. You may be interested to know that, according to Public Health England, the numbers of people passing away at home increased by 5 percent between 2004 and 2016, while those dying in hospitals decreased by 11 percent. This suggests more people are choosing to pass away at home, which not only offers peace and comfort to people at the end of their lives, but crucially frees up space in hospitals for other treatment.

It is important to remember that practical concerns often affect whether it is possible for somebody to pass away at home. Sometimes people require palliative care which is just not possible in their homes, and I trust that doctors, nurses, and groups like Marie Curie, will work with patients to make sure they receive the most appropriate care at the end of their lives.

The NHS is developing an invaluable end of life care plan, led by Sir Bruce Keogh, the NHS's medical director. This plan aims to end the variation in quality of palliative care in England, and this applies to all end of life care, whether it is delivered in a hospital, a hospice, or a person's home.

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