

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

22nd November 2018

New Commitment,

RE: POSTNATAL MENTAL HEALTH.

Thank you for contacting me recently about postnatal mental health; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

As you suggest, it is vitally important that women have access to the right care during pregnancy and in the first postnatal year.

Improving perinatal mental health services during pregnancy and in the first postnatal year should be prioritised. The Department for Health and Social Care is investing £365 million over five years in perinatal mental health services. NHS England is leading a transformation programme to ensure that, by 2020-21, at least 30,000 more women each year are able to access evidence-based, specialist mental health care during the perinatal period. Where possible, the transformation programme aims to improve prevention of perinatal mental illness, including through earlier diagnosis and intervention, support for recovery and reducing avoidable harm.

Investment by NHS England in multidisciplinary perinatal mental health clinical networks, which include GPs, will also help drive change. I hope that by working together through these networks, health practitioners can ensure women at risk of perinatal mental health problems are identified at an earlier stage and can receive better, more coordinated care.

Better access to mental health services is a big priority for the NHS, which I am glad about as a firm supporter of the commitment to parity of esteem between mental and physical health.

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