

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th March 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: MAINTAINED NURSERIES.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of funding for maintained nursery schools; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I appreciate your concerns and strongly believe that the early years are crucial to giving every child the best possible start in life. I therefore welcome that free childcare for working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds has been doubled and tax-free childcare has been introduced. More than 849,000 disadvantaged 2-year-olds have benefited from 15 hours of free childcare since 2013.

In order to realise this ambitious expansion, a fairer funding system was introduced in 2017. The previous system was based on historic expenditure, leading to significant variations in funding for local authorities. The new Early Years National Funding Formula is ensuring funding is allocated fairly, transparently and on a sustainable basis.

I am encouraged that around £3.5 billion is being invested in early education entitlements this year alone. In the 2019 Spending Round a commitment was made to boost early years spending to increase the hourly rate paid to childcare providers through the free hours initiatives, with the overall spend set to rise to £3.6 billion in 2020-21.

These changes have created a fairer system that better provides the affordable and high-quality childcare needed to give children all over the country the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

Locally, I am particularly conscious of the high-quality maintained provision provided at the Pen Green Centre in Corby and I have consistently worked with them on the issue of funding, and will continue to do so. Of course, with the Budget now only a few days away, I will also make sure to raise these concerns again as part of that process.

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

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