



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

*Jean Confortant,*

**RE: ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of adult social care; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Whilst I am afraid I was unable to attend the event you kindly invited me to, like you, I believe we must all receive dignified care in old age. With an ageing population, this is one of the biggest challenges our country faces. I support the Government's commitment to making sure that the most vulnerable in society gain the support they need.

While it is important to note that more than 4 of every 5 people in care receive care from good and outstanding organisations, it is clear that more needs to be done to tackle this serious challenge – crucially by securing a long term funding solution. I'm delighted that the Prime Minister has spoken of his determination to tackle this, stating in his first speech as Prime Minister that "*we will fix the crisis in social care once and for all with a clear plan we have prepared, to give every older person the dignity and security they deserve*".

The Government is currently producing a *Social Care Green Paper*, which will consider a range of proposals to improve social care, as well as funding options to ensure our social care system is able to meet the needs of our ageing society and is placed on a sustainable footing for the long term. Since 2015, local authorities have had greater flexibility over the use of the council tax social care precept, so they can choose to raise extra money, as well as retain savings from the *New Homes Bonus*, totalling £240 million.

In the Spending Round in September, an extra £1.5 billion was made available to councils for adult social care services. This funding should be viewed as a significant down payment as we move towards a long term funding solution.

Money alone will not fix the problem and reform is needed to encourage high standards across the whole country. It is vital for us to consider ways of better joining up health and care services, and I am encouraged by the use of the *Better Care Fund* to assist local government and the NHS with the implementation of integrated health and care services.



In the Conservative Party Manifesto, on which I was proud to stand, it was made clear that we must build the same level of consensus on social care that we have already built on the NHS, working across political parties, so that an answer can be brought forward that solves the problem, commands the widest possible support, and stands the test of time. I stand by this commitment, and urge my colleagues and constituents of all political beliefs and none, to take part in this conversation about establishing a care system fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', with a horizontal line underneath.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**