



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

*New Contract,*

**RE: IMPROVING THE SOCIAL CARE SYSTEM.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding improving the social care system; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

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 and I fully stand by the Government's commitment to ensure that the most vulnerable in society have the support they need later in life. Whilst it is important to note that more than four of every five people in care receive it 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.*"

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 2019, 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.

I understand that the Government is considering a range of proposals for social care funding, to help to meet the cost of a reformed social care system. I am assured that many options are being considered and I eagerly anticipate further discussion on this issue.

However, 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.

The work carried out by care workers is vital and as we look towards reforming the social care system, it will be essential to further invest in care workers. Indeed, 1.6 million people work in social care, which is 22 percent higher than ten years ago. I was pleased that, during 2019, the Government launched the 'Every Day is Different' campaign, to recruit more staff to the care sector and provide further information about the different types of work carers do, and what qualifications might be required for each role.



Ultimately, in the *Conservative 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, 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 a conversation about establishing a care system fit for the 21st 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,

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