



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

25th September 2020

New Content

RE: YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding young people's wellbeing and access to mental health services; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I share your concern about the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on children and young people's mental health and it must be a matter of priority for all of us that we do everything in our power to ensure our next generation are happy and healthy. It is incredibly important to protect and support the health of children and young people in our society. In recent years we have made huge progress in understanding mental health issues, and I support efforts to transform children and young people's mental health for the better. Approximately 10 percent of children aged 5-16 have a clinically diagnosable mental health problem. Since 2015, an additional £1.4 billion has been invested to transform children and young people's mental health services.

The *Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper* sets out ambitious proposals to improve mental health services for children and young people, together with over £300 million of funding. This will incentivise and support schools and colleges to train designated leaders for their pupils' mental health, and introduce new mental health teams, both of which will ease pressure on NHS mental health services.

The *NHS Long Term Plan* makes a commitment to offering children and young people the best start in life. As part of this, there is an additional commitment to deliver on the promises made in the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*, so that 70,000 more children and young people will access treatment each year by April 2021. Moreover, by 2023/2024, an additional 345,000 children and young people under 25 will be able to access support via NHS funded mental health services and school or college-based Mental Health Support Teams. These commitments are supported by an additional £2.3 billion of funding by 2023/24.

In addition, the NHS is on track to deliver new waiting time standards for eating disorder services by April 2021. Four-fifths of children and young people with an eating disorder now receive treatment within one week in urgent cases and four weeks in non-urgent cases. Extra investment will enable maintained delivery of the 95 percent standard beyond 2020/21.

As young people return to schools and colleges, the 'Wellbeing for Education Return' programme launched to improve the wellbeing of pupils, as well as staff, in schools and colleges. The £8 million programme will support staff working in schools and colleges to respond to the additional pressures some children and young people may be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic, as well as to any emotional response their staff may still be experiencing from bereavement, stress, trauma, or anxiety over the past few months. The programme has been created with input from health partners, mental health experts, local authorities and schools and colleges.



Monitoring children and young people's wellbeing will of course be vital to ensure we are making progress. I therefore welcome the publication of the first 'State of the Nation' report into children's mental wellbeing last year. The report delivers on a commitment made last World Mental Health Day to publish an annual report designed to better understand patterns and issues in young people's mental health, alongside guidance for schools to help them measure their students' wellbeing and make sure appropriate support is in place.

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**