



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th April 2021

New Content

RE: YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of young people's wellbeing, specifically regarding The Children's Society's 'Good Childhood Report'; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I share with you the priority for all of us that we do everything in our power to ensure our children are happy and healthy. I know that my ministerial colleagues also share this view and I am reassured by the many steps which are already being taken towards this goal.

While the coronavirus pandemic poses clear challenges for children and young people's mental health, it is somewhat encouraging that the second annual 'State of the Nation' report found that children and young people aged five to twenty-four, generally responded with resilience to changes in their lives between March and September 2020. Despite indications of challenges to their mental wellbeing, they report stable levels of happiness and only slight reductions in satisfaction with their lives.

The report suggested that the return to school or college would play a vital role in improving the mental wellbeing of many pupils, by easing some of the main worries identified in the research: time off from education, being isolated from friends, fewer opportunities to be more physically active and also providing access to pastoral support. Schools being open during the autumn will no doubt have helped with all these concerns, and the same is true now that schools and colleges have re-opened.

An £8 million training programme run by mental health experts was launched in the autumn to help improve how schools and colleges respond to the emotional impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on both students and staff, by giving them the knowledge and access to resources they need to support children, young people, teachers and parents affected by the pandemic.

The introduction of the new compulsory 'Relationships, Sex & Health Education' curriculum will be another important step in improving our children's overall wellbeing. The curriculum is designed to equip children early-on with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships, as well as preparing them for adult life in a changing world.



I am also pleased that Mental Health Support Teams will be rolled out to schools and colleges. It is welcome that the number of these support teams is set to grow from 59 to 400 by April 2023, reaching nearly three million children in England. These teams will employ new staff who are being recruited and trained specifically for the programme. The National Health Service is on track to deliver the roll-out of Mental Health Support Teams in schools and colleges across 20-25 percent of areas in England by 2023/24.

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

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