



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd August 2021

Jean Conthient,

RE: SOCIAL CARE REFORM

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding reform of social care. I have read your comments on this with great interest and consideration.

I appreciate your concern and your strength of feeling on this matter, but it is important to note that more than four in every five people in care are looked after by 'good' and 'outstanding' organisations. However, while this is the case, 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.*" I stand by the Government's commitment to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society are given the support that they need.

At the Spending Review in November 2020, local authorities were enabled to access over £1 billion of spending for social care, through £300 million of social care grant, and the ability to levy a three percent adult social care precept. This is in addition to the £1 billion social care grant announced during 2019, and the £3 billion provided to local authorities to address COVID-19 pressures, including in adult social care. I know that this Government is committed to sustainable improvement of the adult social care system.

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 encouraging collaboration between health and social care services, such as the Better Care Fund which assists local government and the NHS with the implementation of integrated services.

Furthermore, we must also recognise the incredibly important work carried out by carers, which has only further been highlighted during the pandemic, and I am extremely grateful to the over 1.5 million people who work in this field, both paid and unpaid - it is an absolutely vital role that must be compensated financially.

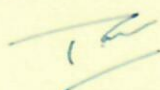
Disabled people must also be heard and involved in reforming social care to make the reforms meaningful and create a fully inclusive society. Ministers have shared this opinion, highlighting care for the disabled and care in the community.



In the *Conservative Party Manifesto*, on which I was proud to stand at the General Election, we set out our aim to 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 firmly support the renewed commitment in the Queen's Speech to bring forward proposals to reform social care during this Parliament, and eagerly anticipate taking part in a national conversation about establishing a care system fit for the 21st Century.

Like you, I am very keen that we get on and do this - a view I have consistently expressed to Ministers and I will be sure to give voice to your comments on this too.

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**