



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd August 2021

Jean Comblanc

RE: SUPPORT FOR STROKE SURVIVORS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding support for stroke survivors. I appreciate you inviting me to the inaugural meeting of the APPG on Stroke, which unfortunately I was unable to attend owing to unavoidable parliamentary commitments on that day.

I know that good progress has been made in the treatment of stroke in recent years, with mortality rates for people who have suffered with strokes decreasing.

I am aware that action continues to be taken to ensure that further progress is made on strokes and I think we can all look to the great successes made in London in recent years, where the London Hyper Acute Stroke Unit model has been shown to save nearly a hundred more lives per year than its previous model, at a considerably smaller cost to the NHS.

Work is continuing across the country to organise acute stroke care to ensure that all stroke patients, regardless of where they live, or when they have their stroke, have access to high quality specialist care.

The *Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Outcomes Strategy* was published in 2013 and included many stroke specific ambitions. As part of this, a CVD expert forum, hosted by NHS England, was established to coordinate delivery of the work through the strategy. NHS England has also been working with the Strategic Clinical Networks, Clinical Commissioning Groups, voluntary agencies and individual providers to support better commissioning and provision of stroke care. Furthermore, I welcome that research into personalised medicine to detect genes that make a person more vulnerable to heart attacks and strokes is being undertaken. I welcome that institutes such as the Centre for Cardiovascular Genetics and the Institute for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research are conducting this exciting research.

The *NHS Long Term Plan*, backed by increased NHS spending by £33.9 billion per year by the end of five years, launched in January 2019, aims to prevent 150,000 heart attacks, strokes and dementia cases. This is through an increased focus on prevention through improved wellbeing, as well as better integrated community care: investment has been made in the development of integrated stroke delivery networks, delivering improvements across the whole stroke pathway, including rehabilitation and life after stroke services. NHS England and NHS Improvement are piloting higher intensity models of stroke rehabilitation at several sites around the country. I will be most interested to see the outcome of these pilot programmes, which could be rolled out nationwide if successful.



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 be 'T. Pursglove', with a horizontal line underneath.

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