

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

*Dear Andrew,*

**RE: AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about health and social care for disabled children following the COVID-19 pandemic. I have read your comments with interest.

First, thank you for your kind invitation to attend the Disabled Children's Partnership event on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Unfortunately, owing to prior, long-standing, diary commitments, I was unable to attend, although I will continue to follow the issues raised closely and would like to outline here what the Government is currently doing in this area.

As part of the COVID-19 recovery, the Government has made available £2 billion in 2021/22 and a further £8 billion from April 2022 to March 2025, to increase activity and reduce waiting times for patients, including children with disabilities.

This funding could deliver the equivalent of approximately nine million more checks, scans and procedures, and allow the NHS in England to deliver 30 percent more elective activity by 2024/25, compared to pre-pandemic levels. A further £5.9 billion of capital funding was announced in October 2021 to support elective recovery, diagnostics and technology.

The Government is also supporting access to appropriate disability equipment via the NHS supply chain, which maintains a framework contract for the supply of rehabilitation and disabled services equipment, such as paediatric wheelchairs, to the NHS and other healthcare settings.

Regarding your concerns about the mental health challenges of disabled children and their families, the 'NHS Long Term Plan' commits to increasing funding for NHS mental health services by approximately £2.3 billion a year by 2023/24, to allow a further two million people to access mental health support.

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 'Tom Pursglove'.

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