

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st July 2023

Dear Anthony,

RE: HEALTH AND CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about health and care for older people. I have read your comments with interest.

First, thank you for your kind invitation to attend Age UK's summer reception on the 10th July 2023. Unfortunately, owing to prior, longstanding diary commitments, I was unable to attend, although please rest assured that I will continue to follow the issues raised closely.

My ministerial colleagues and I are aware that, these days, many people spend their later years with multiple health conditions. The percentage of people aged over 65 years old with two or more health conditions is projected to increase from 54 percent in 2015 to 68 percent in 2035. In light of this, the Government supports the health needs of, and prevents ill health in, older people through a variety of actions.

The NHS Health Check detects people at risk of developing cardiovascular disease in later life, and other common preventable diseases among older people. At the check, medical staff will encourage people in mid-life to stop smoking, to reduce their alcohol consumption, and to improve their diet, in a bid to reduce the risk of dementia, disability and frailty in later life. The Government engages with a wide range of organisations on healthy ageing, and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities is taking targeted actions to tackle the most common preventable diseases.

Furthermore, the Government will soon publish a 'Major Conditions Strategy'; a strong, coherent policy agenda that sets out a shift to integrated care. It will tackle conditions that contribute most to morbidity and mortality across the population in England, including cancers, cardiovascular disease, including stroke and diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, dementia, mental ill health and musculoskeletal conditions.

The Government also launched an Older People's Housing Taskforce earlier this year. The panel will focus on: the needs, preferences and concerns of older people, their families and their carers; maximising the potential of technology, building design and regulation to ensure homes are suitable for the future; and understanding progress at a local level to increase the volume and diversity of housing options for older people. The taskforce will run for up to 12 months, producing an independent report to the Government upon conclusion.

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 read 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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Email: pursglovet@parliament.uk - Telephone: 0207 219 8043