

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th October 2023

Dear Catherine,

RE: NATIONAL CARE SERVICE

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of proposals for a National Care Service. I have read your comments with interest.

During this Parliament, the Government has made several proposals for reforming adult social care in England, including measures that would have provided additional funding, the *Social Care White Paper* and the social care cap. The Opposition has consistently opposed each of these proposals to date.

I am opposed to proposals for a National Care Service, and there are significant flaws in the Fabian Society's report (conducted on behalf of the Opposition) advocating for this approach. For example, the Fabian Society states that "*delivering on people's aspirations for what an NCS would achieve will require a very substantial increase in public funding over many years.*" However, the report does not state the cost of such measures, or how they would be paid for.

Current proposals for a National Care Service risk causing a complex, centralising, top-down reorganisation of health and social care across England. The Fabian Society's report proposes new legislation that would impose new duties on central and local government, as well as introducing a national care guarantee, codified in a new National Care Service 'constitution'. No information is provided on how the income would be raised to fund central and local government for the costs of these new duties, but the independent Kings Fund has stated that this would require wider reform of local government finance.

I also note that Labour MSPs have opposed similar proposals introduced by the Scottish Government, with criticism levelled at the top-down centralisation, structural change and lack of clarity around what a National Care Service would cost to deliver.

In the meantime, the Government remains committed to reforming adult social care in England, and is providing up to £2.8 billion in 2023-24 in England, and £4.7 billion in 2024-25, to put the social care system on a more sustainable footing.

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