



June 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about support for carers.

I recognise the valuable contribution made by carers of all kinds - residential, domiciliary, paid, unpaid - many of whom spend a significant proportion of their life providing support to family members, friends and neighbours. I completely agree that carers must receive the right support to help them carry out their caring roles. A tenth of adults in the UK provide unpaid care for a friend or family member, and these people should be supported in the invaluable work they do.

That is why a cross-Government National Carers Strategy was introduced to look at what more can be done to support existing and future carers. After a lengthy consultation with carers themselves, the Government announced a two-year programme of support. This includes support for young carers, effective action to help carers balancing their caring and employment responsibilities and ensuring that health and social care services are responsive to their needs.

The Government is continuing to support the implementation of improved rights for carers, enshrined in the Care Act 2014. I welcome the fact that benefits to support vulnerable and disabled people, including Carer's Allowance, are exempt from the freeze on working-age benefits.

I fully support measures to provide additional support to young carers, and I know that the Government is committed to ensuring young carers are not left behind. The Carers Action Plan, published in 2018, outlined a number of measures for young carers, which included steps to better identify young carers, measures to safeguard vulnerable children, and improvements in educational opportunities and outcomes. I will continue to monitor progress in this area and will work to champion the needs of young carers in my constituency.

Moreover, in the NHS Long Term Plan, published following the announcement of a £33.9 billion cash increase to annual NHS funding by 2023/24, commits to improving the ways in which unpaid carers are identified, in order to strengthen support for them.

In the Conservative Manifesto, on which I was proud to stand, 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 conversation about establishing a care system fit for the 21st century.



Chris Heaton-Harris

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The Department of Health and Social Care will continue to lead a programme of targeted work to support carers, including young and unpaid.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**