



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2018

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about children's health.

While there may not be one single child health strategy in operation, I hope I can assure you that the Government runs a variety of initiatives to ensure that our children grow up as happy and healthy as possible.

I share your concern with the findings from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH). However, I would like to note that the Department of Health and Social Care works with Public Health England to address the issues raised by the RCPCH.

For example, significant efforts are being made to increase rates of breastfeeding throughout the country, through the Start4Life campaign, the expansion of the Health Visitors programme and a longstanding partnership with UNICEF.

Reducing smoking in pregnancy is a key component of the current Tobacco Control Plan, which aims to usher in the first smoke-free generation, by reducing the prevalence of smoking in pregnancy from 10.7 per cent to 6 per cent or less and smoking among 15 year old from 8 per cent to 3 per cent or less by 2022. This builds on the success of the 2011 Tobacco Control Plan, which exceeded its ambitions.

Moreover, the Government has instituted a world-leading childhood obesity strategy, to tackle the fundamental health problem, which affects around a third of all children. These issues all see profound regional variation and are often linked to economic deprivation, and I support the Government's work to reduce the significant inequality which is associated with children's health.

You may also be encouraged by the publication of the Government's green paper in December 2017, which sets out how we may transform children and young people's mental health, and nurture a happy and healthy future generation

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**