April 2020



Thank you for contacting me about alcohol misuse.

The Global Burden of Disease study has identified alcohol and drug use as one of the top five risk factors that cause premature deaths in England. I am encouraged that the Government has targeted a range of areas to tackle alcohol misuse since the publication of the Alcohol Strategy in 2012.

Alcohol contributes to a range of conditions, including cardiovascular disease, cancer and liver disease, harm from accidents, violence and self-harm. As a result, it places substantial pressure on the NHS. Trailblazer hospitals across the country have established specialist Alcohol Care Teams (ACTs), which significantly reduce accident and emergency attendances, bed days, readmissions and ambulance call-outs related to alcohol.

Over the next five years, those hospitals with the highest rate of alcohol dependence-related admissions will be supported to fully establish ACTs. Delivered in the 25 per cent of worst affected hospitals, this could prevent 50,000 admissions over five years.

On a more local level, powers and responsibilities have been given to local areas to tackle public health concerns, and Public Health England (PHE) is working closely with them in assessing local alcohol-related need. Local authorities can commission the support services as they deem fit and I am pleased to note that high quality, evidence-based treatment services are being run throughout the country.

Those affected by alcohol abuse are then further supported by the tireless efforts of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). I commend the AA’s ongoing work to assist individuals with their personal recovery.

Thank you again for taking time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**