

# IN PARLIAMENT THIS MONTH

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter! I'm delighted to be able to represent you as your MP and have been working hard to do just that, both in Westminster and Worthing West.

In Parliament, as a member of the Health & Social Care Select Committee, health has been a key theme. I spoke in the House on the issue of obesity and the inequalities which lead to it, such as the high price of healthy food when compared to processed food of far less nutritional value.

I also joined the Committee's discussions on adult social care reform, as well as All Party Parliamentary Groups on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Liver Health. Resistance to drugs such as antibiotics is a serious problem both in the UK and worldwide. While as part of Love Your Liver Day I volunteered for a liver Fibroscan – and thankfully received a clean bill of health!

I hosted the launch of the Food Foundation report 'The Broken Plate 2025' once again advocating for equitable food systems, attended the Gambling with Lives Annual Parliamentary Forum, highlighting gambling-related harms and joined over thirty MP's holding property management company Firstport to account, a national scandal also affecting long-suffering residents here in Worthing West.

I was also appointed to the Tobacco and Vapes Bill Committee. Throughout January, we have gone through each clause of the Bill, debating areas of contention and seeking clarity in others. This Bill will mean our children and grandchildren can grow up as smoke-free generations, with significant reductions of smoking related disease such as lung cancer and heart attacks and no advertising or sales of vapes to children.



Evening view of the Houses of Parliament

## HEALTH MATTERS

Health is also a key part of my constituency work and as part of the Government's national 10 year Health Plan, I've launched a constituency-wide consultation on NHS services. I'll be hosting events with residents, health partners and professionals, beginning in Angmering on February 7th.

Please look out for details and whether you're able to come along or not, let me know your thoughts.

Residents have expressed their frustration about the time it takes to get through to GP surgeries on the phone, and I visited Angmering Medical Centre to discuss their telephone triage system, which they are in the process of improving.

Social Care is another area under immense pressure and I met with Caremark, a national home care provider based here in Worthing West. I'll be taking the issues both have raised back to Parliament.

# January 2025

*in Worthing West*



## Dr Beccy Cooper

Member of Parliament for Worthing West

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Welcome to my first monthly update for the constituency, where I'll keep you informed about my work as your MP, both in Parliament and across our community. Thank you to everyone who has shared their thoughts, concerns, and ideas with me so far.

I hold regular casework advice surgeries and will be hosting Tea (and coffee!) mornings around the constituency. Look out for dates and please do contact my office if you have any queries.

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Tobacco and Vapes Bill Committee Members

# ON THE CASE

I always want to hear about the issues and challenges you face and our casework team are working flat-out to resolve as many of those we can.

With rent and mortgage costs still high, evictions and poor housing remain key concerns for residents, along with hospital waiting times and access to your GP and dentistry.

With well over 150 cases ongoing at any given time, and with local council and voluntary services

## Casework

JANUARY 2025

850 letters and email correspondence received from constituents

498 constituents helped with issues

297 policy queries raised

6 Government departments written to on behalf of constituents

3 casework surgeries held

### Top three casework concerns

Health and Social Care

Transport

Housing and Planning

stretched to the limit, my team are working incredibly hard to support local residents. If you need support please do get in touch by email or letter.

# GETTING THERE



Stagecoach are consulting on proposed changes to bus timetables and services. Please participate in the consultation.

Transport is always a hot topic and I've been out and about in Durrington and East Preston hearing your views.

Potholes are a perennial problem but at last Government is investing an extra £1.6 billion this year to start tackling the appalling state of our roads

which means an extra 7 million potholes a year are set to be filled – great news for drivers and all road users.

Bus routes and timetables are changing in West Worthing. I am following up on this with local stakeholders, so please continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me.

# I'm listening...



As a new MP, I am learning lots of new skills fast! But for me, the most important part of the job is and always will be, taking the time to listen.

In order to understand how best to represent you here and in Parliament, I've been talking to residents, groups and organisations this month across all parts of Worthing West, hearing from lots of you about your own individual issues and broader concerns for our community.

Along with my team, we are able to raise these matters in Parliament with Ministers and in debates, as well as working locally with our Council, schools, health care partners and businesses. Making improvements and caring for our communities is a team effort – together, we can make a real difference!

**Dr Beccy Cooper**

Member of Parliament for Worthing West



# GETTING THE BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN

Labour's Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is currently passing through Parliament, which will reset safeguarding and welfare standards for our children, with measures such as providing free breakfast clubs, limiting school uniform costs, giving extra support for SEND students and for those in care.

With this in mind, I've been meeting up with staff and pupils from Worthing schools and colleges, all serving different educational sectors

but with the same determination to achieve the best possible outcomes for their students.

Oak Grove College and Durrington High School differ in scale but both run excellent teacher training programs, with Oak Grove staff sharing SEND teaching expertise with local mainstream schools.

I also welcomed an inspiring group of Worthing College students to Parliament and gave a talk there on how laws are made.



Worthing College visit to Parliament January 2025

Given all the current challenges they face, now is the time to support and take pride in our young people.



**Dr Beccy Cooper MP**

Member of Parliament for Worthing West  
House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA

**Working for you in Worthing West**  
Newsletter January 2025