



Worthing West

IN PARLIAMENT THIS MONTH

March has been a busy month in Parliament as we approach the Easter recess. I spoke in the Chamber on Welfare Reform, highlighting critical gaps in mental health services and stressing the need for greater public health investment.

I also raised a question to Defence Ministers on the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance in conflict zones, highlighting how rising infections complicate battlefield wound treatment, prolonging recovery times and adding challenges for medical teams.

Outside the Chamber, I co-chaired the UK-Africa Health Summit alongside the Nigerian Health Minister after joining a delegation to Nigeria earlier this month with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health & Security.

As a Health and Social Care Committee member, I continued my public health work and was the keynote speaker at a Gambling - Chapter One event, raising concerns about the widespread harms of problem gambling.

I have sent written questions, including one on removing asbestos from public buildings. Asbestos is the leading cause of work-related deaths in Great Britain. Around 5,000 people die yearly from asbestos-related diseases, and sadly, death rates are rising among school and hospital staff. We received a reply that the Department of Work and Pensions is committed to getting much better data on where there is asbestos and moving towards plans for removal.

NUTRITION FOR GROWTH



I recently returned from a flying one-day visit to Paris to take part in the Nutrition For Growth Summit 2025.

I met with a range of stakeholders, including representatives from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to discuss the importance of integrating nutrition into health policies.

I remain deeply committed to strengthening the UK's role in addressing malnutrition, supporting sustainable food systems and promoting international cooperation on health and nutrition.



Dr Beccy Cooper
Member of Parliament for Worthing West



I hope this newsletter finds you well. Welcome to my March update for the constituency, keeping 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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KICKING THE HABIT

This month I spoke in the Chamber at the remaining stages of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. Smoking remains the biggest driver of health inequality in England, disproportionately affecting marginalised communities and those on lower incomes.

Smoking causes over 16 different types of cancer and around 160 people are diagnosed with cancer caused by smoking every day. The harsh fact is that the more disadvantaged you are, the more likely you are to suffer from smoking related disease and premature death.

Having run smoking cessation services as a public health consultant I know just how incredibly hard it can be to quit and I congratulate everyone who has managed to kick the habit for good.

I am extremely proud to be part of a government working to create the first smoke-free generation but we must also continue to monitor and address all the underlying health inequalities across our society as part of our 10-year Plan for the NHS.



Beccy speaking at the remaining stages of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill



IN WORTHING WEST



Becky meeting with the South Downs National Park Authority team

Education has been a key theme this month, with visits to Angmering School & Sixth Form and Hawthorns Primary, two very different schools in terms of size and setting but both led by fantastic teams working hard to provide the very best outcomes for their students. More on that below.

I met with the South Downs National Park team in beautiful Clapham Village to see the great work they're doing preserving our beautiful woodlands.

ON THE CASE

We want to hear about the issues and challenges you face and my casework team are working flat-out to resolve as many of those we can. With well over 100 cases ongoing at any given time, and local council and voluntary services stretched to the limit, the team are working incredibly hard.

Reaching out to your MP can be a lifeline to support so please do get in touch becky.cooper.mp@parliament.uk

And at Anne Street Social in the town centre, I heard about their plans to turn the space into a social enterprise supporting young people to learn new skills – a project I'll be supporting all the way.

I've also held some busy Meet the MP events, where a number of important issues were raised, including local healthcare and crime concerns, and therapy provision for adopted children. I'll be holding more events in April so please do register and join me for a cuppa.

Working for you

Casework

MARCH 2025



850 letters and email correspondence received



329 constituents helped with issues



301 policy queries addressed



3 Casework surgeries held

Top three casework concerns

SEN Needs

Housing

Highways

A BIG WIN FOR WORTHING WEST



Becky at a Chatsmore Farm protest, Feb 2024

This month we had the great news that plans to develop **Chatsmore Farm** have finally been rejected, after so many years of campaigning and litigation.

Residents, along with Worthing Borough Council, have been clear in their commitment to preserving this precious green space and the outcome is a real testament to the tenacity and strength of our community.

This is a huge, hard-earned win for our community and I am so proud to represent our fantastic Worthing West!

Becky

Dr Beccy Cooper

Member of Parliament for Worthing West



FOCUS ON SEND



Becky at Hawthorns Primary School

One thing I see on every school visit, whether it be to specialist schools like Hawthorns and Oak Grove College or more mainstream schools like Angmering and Durrington High, is the need for better investment in SEND provision. And by better I mean not just increased but smarter, more targeted funding.

With rising demand for SEND services, it can be incredibly difficult for parents to find suitable school places near to home. Often, the needs of their children could be met in a local mainstream school if it were allocated just a fraction of the cost of transporting those students to specialist settings miles away.

Although we don't have full details of Sussex devolution yet, I firmly believe it will help, as a wider picture emerges and funding can be more strategically targeted.

I've suggested that school leaders could work with other local heads and teaching staff in putting together a plan of what they think



Becky at Angmering School

education management should look like under the new unitary system – and I'll be fully supporting them in putting SEND front and centre.



Dr Beccy Cooper

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Working for you in Worthing West
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