

This month I had the incredible privilege of being able to ask my first question at Prime Minister's Question Time. I'd chosen the subject of Sussex devolution, which is a matter of great interest – and some confusion – both in Worthing West and across the county. More on that below.

Health and Social Care have been the main themes this month, with the Select Committee hearing evidence on the challenges facing unpaid and young carers, as well as on mental health. We need more combined physical and mental health checks for those with poor mental health and to reverse the cuts made to substance addiction services. We also visited the Isle of Wight, which has a large proportion of elderly residents, to look at different Social Care models there.

We also launched an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Emergency Care, which will push for improvements to A&E services, looking into issues like wait times and corridor care. And while it was great to hear news of a £2 million uplift in NHS appointments last year, and 700,000 more urgent dental appointments, there is still much more to do.

I was also honoured to be elected as the Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Liver Disease and Liver Cancer. With record numbers in the UK affected by this 'silent killer' I'll be continuing my work to find better ways to highlight the dangers and prevent, diagnose and treat liver disease.



February 2025 All-Party Parliamentary Group on Liver Disease and Liver Cancer



Dr Beccy Cooper

Member of Parliament for Worthing West

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Welcome to my February 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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GAMBLING WITH LIVES

Often when we think of gambling we imagine a flutter on the Grand National or buying a lottery ticket, but the scale of harm caused by the most unsafe online gambling products is only just becoming understood – including not just financial ruin but loss of employment, domestic violence and suicidality.

86% of gross online betting profits come from only 5% of customers and we know that operators use

tracking to target the most vulnerable.

The Gambling Commission tell us you are 9 times more likely to be offered a "free bet" if you have a gambling problem.

Our pre-smartphone gambling laws are not fit for the digital age so I am working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Gambling Reform to press for urgent review of the law and regulations to protect young people and limit the most dangerous products.



Gambling Reform
All-Party Parliamentary Group



Dr Beccy Cooper MP

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

Working for you in Worthing West
Newsletter February 2025

HEARING YOUR VIEWS



Becky on our beautiful Worthing Pier

We started February with three Big Change consultation events on the NHS, taking the views of healthcare partners and professionals as well as residents here in Worthing West on what matters most to you about our NHS. We had a fantastic response and I'll be feeding that information back to Parliament.

I visited Royal Mail and our outstanding Meadowfields hospital, and met with town centre retail businesses to hear their concerns about shoplifting. I also held some busy surgeries, discussing topics such as Devolution, teenage smartphone use and the importance of access to nutritious, locally produced food with our brilliant Worthing West farming community.

ON THE CASE

We 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 well over 100 cases ongoing at any given time, and with local council and voluntary services stretched to the limit, our team are working incredibly hard.

Reaching out to your MP can be a lifeline to support so please do get in touch.

Casework

FEBRUARY 2025

> 1175 letters and email correspondence received from constituents

> 253 constituents helped with issues

> 1,052 policy queries addressed

> 4 Government departments and an embassy written to on behalf of constituents

> 3 casework surgeries held

Top three casework concerns

Local Government

Transport

Health and Social Care

THINKING GLOBALLY



Deputy Speaker Mr Benjamin O'Kalu, House of Representatives, Nigeria National Assembly and colleagues

Keeping people healthy and safe is at the top of the public health agenda.

On my recent fact-finding trip to the Isle of Wight with the Health and Social Care Select Committee, I was struck by how much MPs can learn from the differing approaches to social care being taken – even by our neighbouring constituencies.

In March, I'll be travelling much further afield – to Nigeria – to consider public health challenges there.

Recent pandemics have shown how essential it is to support global health initiatives and learn from each other in matters of public health to create a healthier, safer future for us all.

Becky

Dr Becky Cooper

Member of Parliament for Worthing West

THE DEVOLUTION QUESTION

Following my question to the Prime Minister, I want to share why I believe Devolution will bring significant benefits to our community here in Worthing West.

Under the proposed structure, our current Borough and County Councils will be replaced by a new strategic Sussex authority, led by an elected Mayor.

This will streamline services, cut through bureaucracy, and give local communities a stronger voice in shaping their future.

An elected Sussex Mayor will also ensure better local governance, directing resources where they are needed most. Instead of constantly bidding for Government funding, our region will have more financial stability, allowing long-term investment in vital areas such as transport, housing, and social care.

I also want to reassure residents that the upcoming County Council elections in May are not being cancelled but simply postponed for a year. This ensures that councillors serve a full four-year term as planned.



Becky at Prime Minister's Questions

For me, Devolution represents a fantastic opportunity to transform the future of our area—ensuring decisions are made locally, for the benefit of our community.