# Newsletter May-Jun 2025 Worthing West

#### IN PARLIAMENT

Global Health has been a key theme throughout May and I've had a number of important discussions. I met with leaders of the Pan American Health Organisation to discuss deepening UK-Latin America collaboration on antimicrobial resistance, and hosted a high-level roundtable meeting with NHS leaders and academics exploring how better integration of diagnostics in patient care pathways can reduce antibiotic overuse and improve treatment outcomes.

I also established and chaired the inaugural meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health and Security, which focussed on global preparedness, sustainable health investment, and integrating health into foreign policy dialogues.

At the Health & Social Care Committee I raised questions about the health outcomes

of Black women entering pregnancy, and the structural inequalities that continue to undermine equitable care. In the Chamber, I pressed the Minister for Women and Equalities, Bridget Phillipson for assurance that maternity units, particularly in underfunded and deprived areas, will receive the resources needed to deliver safe and equal levels of care amid ongoing financial pressures.

I wrote to Foreign Secretary David Lammy urging immediate and decisive action to help end the ongoing suffering in Gaza. The letter highlighted the urgent humanitarian imperative and the need for the UK to play a more active role in de-escalation efforts and supporting international law. It also called for the establishment of a Palestinian state. You can see the letter in full on my Facebook page and website.

# Dr Beccy Cooper Member of Parliament for Worthing West

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

Welcome to my May-June 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 host tea (and coffee!) mornings around the constituency. Look out for dates and please do contact my office if you have any queries.

#### SOUTH AFRICA VISIT



Beccy meeting with South African MPs

I was recently invited to visit the South African Parliament with other MPs and Peers.

I came away with fresh ideas on how we might better organise our own Parliament, to allow more interaction with our residents and communities.

I also visited the Red Cross Children's Hospital, a Rape Crisis Centre and met with vaccine development experts working with the UK on a ground-breaking 'flu vaccine programme. A fascinating trip.



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### THOUGHTS ON ASSISTED DYING

Assisted dying is of course a very sensitive and complex issue and thank you to all those who have been in touch. Both as a doctor and an MP I am in favour of the Bill being passed.

I have read the legislation and the 600 amendments proposed so far, and listened to the Health & Social Care Committee moving painstakingly through the evidence. I believe that the legislation is robust and has strong safeguards put in place to support it.

It means we will be protecting the most vulnerable as well as allowing a very small group of people who are within six months of the end of their life, the opportunity to have choice in the way they die.

Critically however, the Bill does not negate the need for excellent end of life care. I will continue to fight for adequate funding for palliative care, to make sure that a good death is something that we should all be able to access.



## IN WORTHING WEST



Beccy at the National Girls 10s tournament

This month I've been out talking with residents in Angmering and at busy Meet The MP events in Ferring and Durrington. Topics included road safety at local schools, mental and occupational health and, frustratingly, the continuing problems for FirstPort residents.

But the overriding concern was the recent loss of local bus services (more below).

I had an operational tour of Worthing Hospital and also visited Northbrook College to discuss SEND provision. It's so positive to see students thriving in mainstream Further Education settings

**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

stretched to the limit, our team are

working incredibly hard.

many of those we can. With well over 100

cases ongoing at any given time, and with local council and voluntary services

Reaching out to your MP can be a lifeline

to support so please do get in touch on

beccy.cooper.mp@parliament.uk

but sadly funding still lags behind the increasing demand for places. The consultation on Oak Grove College has now closed - I do hope they'll be able to expand to The Pines very soon.

I have written to Southern Water requesting an urgent meeting on pollution issues at our beaches. I'll keep you updated on that.

And I really enjoyed being at the National Girls 10s tournament at Worthing Rugby Club. With over 900 players from all around the country it's a fantastic event, and it was great to see so many girls enjoying and empowered by their sport.



#### **LOOKING FORWARD**



**Beccy in Angmering** 

May has been an eventful time, with so much important legislation making its way through Parliament and with lots more to come next month.

As we move into June I'm also looking forward to spending time at all the lovely summer events coming up across Worthing West, from village shows and fêtes, to the third Worthing Festival. It's on the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of June at Homefield Park and promises to be a fantastic community event. See you there!

Beccy

### **Dr Beccy Cooper**





#### CTION ON BUSES



Beccy at a recent Meet The MP event in Durrington

As we've seen in Worthing recently, bus services are in decline and increasing disarray. Along with so many constituents I've been dismayed by cuts to local services – including those linking Durrington to Worthing Hospital.

The government is investing £1billion to support, improve and protect bus services but perhaps more importantly the upcoming Bus Services Bill will bring a sea change by re-introducing a franchising system. This will mean local authorities having the power to set routes, fares and frequencies, with bus operators needing to bid for contracts instead of deciding for themselves where services go and how they are run. And Sussex Devolution will greatly facilitate this process.

I'll continue to campaign on this, calling for West Sussex County Council to take up the new powers available to them under the Bill.



Have your say by taking part in this survey to help shape local transport services:

https://survey.labour.org.uk/betterbuse ssurvey