



Joan Walley

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Mr Kevin Healey
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Our Ref: SAAS01001/01090173

05 March 2009

Dear Mr Healey

I have received a letter from the Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope MP, in response to my letter regarding care for Autism sufferers.

I am pleased to say that the Government have listened to your concerns and have announced a series of measures designed to improve the lives of Autism sufferers and their carers. These include increasing the funding for the Autism Education Trust and, crucially, establishing an External Reference Group, chaired by the Chief Executive of the National Autistic Society, to assess what further measures are needed. This will culminate in a final strategy to be published towards the end of the year. These announcements have been warmly welcomed by the National Autistic Society and are testament to the lobbying efforts of the many people who, like yourself, have written to me on the matter. I have enclosed the Minister's letter which gives full details of the Government's plans.

Thanks once again for writing to me on this important matter and if I can be of any further assistance please do let me know.

Yours sincerely

Joan Walley MP
Stoke-on-Trent North

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