

Penny Mordaunt

Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Portsmouth North



A HEALTHY PORTSMOUTH

Health

Improving the health of local people and their families is one of my top priorities. Life expectancy is 10 years lower in Portsmouth when compared to places a few miles away. Our plans to help the NHS deliver more are outlined below, but to improve health we need to do more. We need more community and leisure facilities, we need more opportunities for people to eat well and exercise more. Local crime levels, lighting- or lack of it, the ability to get to shops which stock fresh fruit and veg, and many other factors have an impact on people being able to live healthily.

Local conservatives have been campaigning to get more community facilities for people to enjoy and fighting cuts to such services, such as football pitches, Stamshaw and Tipner leisure centre, the Peter Ashely centre and many others.

We recently proposed the council set aside £25,000 which we were seeking to get match funded to draw up plans for a swimming facility in Paulsgrove, but unfortunately Labour and the Lib Dems voted against it. We are also concerned that although insurance funds from the Wymering community centre, which was lost in a fire, was spent on improvement to Hillside, that this leaves the community one community centre down.

In addition to this holistic approach we also need to provide better screening services to detect potential health problems earlier, and some incentives for people to make small lifestyle changes. Last summer Penny Mordaunt set up a healthy community day in Cosham. The event brought together local health charities, the NHS, police, local traders and employment organisations to help out local people lead healthier and more prosperous lives. There was health advice and screening, animal and property protection, fire safety and security advice as well as help in making a career change, or finding a new job. The event was a huge success and we'd like to know if you would like a similar event in your area.

What a Conservative Government would do

Few things matter more to our country than the NHS – it's an institution that binds the nation together.

And a Conservative Government will work tirelessly to earn the trust of the patients and staff of the NHS.

- We will always provide the funding the NHS needs and are committed to real increases in health spending
- We will scrap Labour's plans to cut A&E and maternity services, which are not supported by evidence that patient access and care will be improved, so that patients have access to high-quality services at their local hospital
- We will protect family doctor services by opposing Labour's plans to impose impersonal "polyclinics" at the expense of local GP surgeries
- We will make money available for 45,000 more single rooms in the NHS over five years, almost doubling their current number. This will mean every patient going into hospital for planned care can have a single room if they want one
- We will reform the way drugs are priced so that all new treatments that are clinically effective are made available, ending the situation whereby cancer drugs that are routinely available in the rest of Europe and not provided in this country

Most importantly, we will set the NHS free from the ministerial meddling that has resulted in money being diverted from patient care to wasteful bureaucracy. We want to deliver an NHS that provides the best health standards in the world, and ensure every patient is able to choose a good healthcare provider for their needs.

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Our draft NHS Autonomy and Accountability Bill, published in 2007, set out plans to release NHS staff from top-down interference and allow them to concentrate on doing what they do best: providing top-quality care to patients.

A vital part of this is the creation of an independent NHS Board to take responsibility for dividing up NHS funds between different parts of the country away from Ministerial meddling. This body will allocate money fairly and in a way which will help secure equal access to healthcare for all.