Written Question

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the provision of (a) cancer services and (b) mental health services in South Devon.

Paul Burstow (Minister of State (Care Services), Health)

We expect the national health service in South Devon to comply with the national policies on increasing the availability of cancer and mental health services. The national policies are outlined as follows:

'Improving Outcomes-A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January 2011, sets out a range of measures to improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services in England. Backed by more than Â£750 million over the next four years, the strategy sets out the Department's plans to improve earlier diagnosis, access to screening and treatment and improve patients' experience of care.

The Department published the national 'No Health Without Mental Health' Strategy on 2 February 2011. It has the twin aims of promoting and sustaining good mental health and well-being in the wider population, and improving the quality of existing services for people across the full range of mental health problems. It looks at prevalence of problems and effective approaches at different stages in life, stressing the importance of prevention and early intervention.

Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

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