arliamentarians who may be suffering in silence because despite the incredible privilege of working in this place, public life can be incredibly stressful and can destroy not just people's hoax but also marriages, relationships and families and being an MP does not make you immune to the pressures that affect everyone -- people's hopes. But as a port of the wonderful campaigning organisations like mine, rethink and the Samaritans, this kind of courage has made a real difference. I think we have seen over the last couple of years, huge determination on all sides of the house to improvement of health provision. And one reason for that is because in the last decade, a huge amount has improved in our understanding of mental health as a society. We should celebrate the fact that we no much more than we ever did before about the workings of the brain, but because is,

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treatment and prevention of mental ill-health and about links other societal issues like debt, unemployment and family breakdown. The result of that development is that between 70 and 90% of those treated for serious mental illness see a reduction in their symptoms and improved quality of life, even higher percentages if it is caught early, the best example of this is early intervention for psychosis which can see a reduction in suicide risk from 15% to just 1%. We should also recognise the progress made on depression. The world health organisation ascribes depression as more disabling than arthritis, asthma or diabetes. But we know it can be treated as successfully as any of those, including in the British medical Journal 's's research published today which mention the fact that talking therapies can be as

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effective as drugs for moderate and severe depression. Over on programmes of talking therapists have a 50% recovery rate post-treatment. I give way. I appreciate the way he is addressing the subject and we are all on a journey on this. He will remember that last October we published a document that painted a vision until 2020 of achieving genuine equality, not rhetoric, but genuine equality and settled that was introducing conference of waiting time standards, so there is a complete equilibrium. The same right to access treatment on a timely basis whether you have a physical or mental health problem, does he remain committed to that critical principle? I am committed to that principle. We have discussed this many times. Access to treatment is vital, so too is the quality of treatment you get when you start that process of treatment and we have to make sure that we keep a

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close eye on both. I do think it was the right thing to do to ask Paul Farmer of Mind of the best way to make progress towards parity during this new parliament and I will wait and see what his recommendations are before we decide the way that we implement the vision that he was such an important part of developing. We all know that policy by one department can cost pressures on another area and early today that the Secretary of State for Justice are announcing they will reduce prison sentences and have more people serve their sentences in the community. I wouldn't necessarily disagree with that but have been discussions will be discussions with the Department of health about what pressure that then puts on community mental health services? People who are offenders often have mental health or addiction issues behind a criminal behaviour, so I really want

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to make sure and implore the Secretary of State to look at how this policy in one department will have a knock-on effect on pressure on an already pressurised service with mental health. She makes a very important point and I can reassure her that there are very good and ongoing discussions with the of justice and I think the issue of the mental health of the prison population is another area where we failed to do as much as we need to do, there are so many obvious things we could do with huge benefit, not just to the individuals concerned but the rest of society in terms of reducing reoffending rates and we are committed to making real tangible progress in doing that. Set against these improvements in the potential of mental health treatment that I have been talking about some troubling societal changes which increase the demand and need for mental health support. Globally,