Following the Department of Work and Pension’s Oral Questions on 11 February 2019, it has come to my attention that I misheard your question. I’m sure you will recall that there was considerable noise in the Chamber when you spoke and I believed you asked about the support available for care leavers rather than for young carers.

Please accept my apologies for this misunderstanding. I would like to use this letter to amend the answer I provided. I will also send a copy of this letter to the House of Commons library so the correct response to your question can be appropriately logged.

Many people will care for friends or family members at some point in their life, and it is right that we recognise the vitally important role carers play in our society, including young carers.

Depending on their circumstances, young carers may be able to receive help and support from a number of sources, including from their local authority, and if they are studying in college, through the educational maintenance system and the grants and loans that are available to them.

Some young carers may be able to get benefits. Since 2010 the rate of Carer’s Allowance, the main social security benefit for carers, has increased from £53.90 to £64.60 a week, meaning an additional £550 a year for carers. By 2023/24 we are forecast to spend around £3.4 billion a year on CA, a real terms increase of around a fifth since 2017/18. CA offers a measure of recognition of the vital contribution that carers make to our society, though we fully appreciate that many make substantial sacrifices to care for their loved ones and that this can have a very significant impact on their own lives.

Alongside the planned Social Care Green Paper which will include a focus on how society supports carers to ensure that they are properly valued, recognised and
supported, the Carer’s Action Plan has already set out a cross-Government programme focusing on the support that carers need and deserve.

Please let me know if you would like any additional information about the support available for young carers.

Kind regards,

Justin Tomlinson MP
Minister for Family Support, Housing & Child Maintenance