

**JULIA LOPEZ MP**  
Hornchurch & Upminster



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17 September 2019

To whom it may concern,

On 1 March 2019, my constituency of Hornchurch & Upminster was left in a state of shock when one of our young sixth form students, Jodie Chesney, lost her life in Harold Hill in an act of despicable violence.

The tragedy of Jodie's murder shone a spotlight on the challenges all communities now face in protecting young people against knife crime. But it also uncovered an appetite and determination among residents to work together on prevention, intervention and education initiatives to support struggling parents, disengaged young people and children at risk of harm. That appetite now needs to be channelled effectively to ensure that Jodie's legacy is a long-lasting one that inspires meaningful change in our approach to tackling youth violence.

On 28 August, I met Teresa Goulding and Terry Chesney of the Jodie Chesney Foundation to talk about how I might help support the Chesney family in their work to honour Jodie's memory. The Jodie Chesney Foundation wishes to reduce and ultimately eradicate fatal violence by knives. It hopes to do this by supporting and educating parents and young people at risk of gang involvement and by filling gaps in the work of local authorities and schools in preventing future tragedies.

With her background in youth work, Teresa hopes to bring her career expertise to bear in this mission and with his City contacts and legal and business background, Terry Chesney hopes to ensure that the Foundation is professional, well-run and impactful in its work. They are both determined to support Jodie's father, Peter, in his desire not just to honour his daughter and the work she did in the local community, but to make a palpable difference to the aspirations and outcomes of disengaged young people.

I send them every good wish in their endeavour and stand ready to support them in identifying areas of improvement in the work already underway between government, schools, council, police and community groups to bear down on the scourge of knife crime.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Lopez MP".

Telephone: 020 7219 2631  
Email: [julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk)  
Web: [www.julialopez.co.uk](http://www.julialopez.co.uk) Twitter: [@julialopezmp](https://twitter.com/julialopezmp)

The Coach House, 133 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 1AL