



Report from Sharon Hodgson MP



Some "best dressed" Kings and Queens winners celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday at St Cuthbert's Church in Red House.

EU Referendum

Last Thursday, saw months of campaigning culminate in the result of the EU Referendum being declared for the UK to leave the EU. This was one of the most important decisions our country has had to make in recent decades.

The vote across the country was close, showing just how divided we are on the issue of the membership of the EU. However, here in Sunderland, voters turned out in unprecedented numbers to vote and came to the decision that we should in fact leave the EU.

As politicians we must listen, learn and move forward accordingly. Though many voters are facing leavers remorse, we must accept that the vote has now been cast.

Now is the time for leadership to ensure that we get the best deal possible out of the EU exit negotiations so that communities, such as our own and those around the country, are not detrimentally hit by this decision – along with addressing the reported increases in hate crime towards ethnic minorities and migrants since the result was announced.

This is all even more important with the Leave campaign's referendum promises falling apart only hours after the outcome of the vote became clear. That is why, I will closely follow these developments and the negotiations going on. I have listened to the decision made by our City and will now work to ensure we get the best outcome possible for those who need us the most.

Resignation

This week, it was with deep regret that I resigned as Shadow Minister for Children and Families; this was not a decision that I took lightly. Whilst I welcomed the opportunity to serve in Jeremy Corbyn's frontbench team, whilst others did not, to try and make his leadership work, it has become apparent to me that over recent days that Jeremy does not have the support of the democratically elected PLP – which is essential in holding the Government to account.

With us entering uncharted territory with the fall-out of the EU Referendum, The Labour Party needs to ensure we have strong and effective leadership that can unite all aspects of the Party, so that we can engage at the highest levels of the EU exit negotiations and fight to win any expected snap General Election that may take place as soon as October this year. Labour needs to be involved at the highest levels of the EU exit negotiations to deliver the best outcome possible for those people who elected us to Parliament, and I do not believe that Jeremy can provide the leadership we so desperately need.

Remembering Jo Cox

Three weeks ago, we saw the tragic loss of my colleague, Jo Cox, who was murdered going about her duties as a Member of Parliament. Jo was an inspirational woman who dedicated her life to helping those most in need across the world. I want to thank the many constituents and party members who offered their condolences over the past few weeks. Jo will be deeply missed by all of us, regardless of where we sit on the political spectrum.

News from Westminster

“New Dawn” artwork unveiled in Westminster Hall



I was honoured to attend the unveiling of the New Dawn art installation in Parliament on the day which marked 150 years since the first petition for women’s suffrage was laid before Parliament. The artwork is a light installation commemorating women’s suffrage. It uses all the colours associated with the women’s suffrage groups. The lights change, in relation to the tide of the Thames. I am delighted that a piece of art has been commissioned in Parliament that commemorates the women’s suffrage campaign – an important part of Parliamentary history.

Visit to Eldon Junior School’s Nurture Group



It was lovely to visit Eldon Junior School in Edmonton to see first-hand their Nurture Group, which works to support children with their social and emotional well-being. The scheme uses evidence-based practices to offer short-term inclusive focused interventions that allow children to remain active parts of their main class groups but also receive support regarding their social and emotional needs that help remove barriers to learning.

APPG Women’s Health group launch

Since I became an MP, I have championed women’s health issues, especially through being Chair of the

Ovarian Cancer APPG and the Co-Chair of the Breast Cancer APPG. That is why I was pleased to attend the launch of the APPG on Women’s Health recently, where Katie Piper and Angela Rippon spoke about the need to raise awareness of women’s health issues. Now that there is a cross-party group working on this issue, I hope that we can raise the profile even further.

In and Around the Constituency

Children’s Food Trust visit, Jarrow

As Chair of the School Food APPG, I was delighted to be invited to St Matthew’s RC Primary School in Jarrow to take part in their Let’s Get Cooking Club. I have always believed it is important to ensure children are eating healthy food, and part of that is through encouraging them to develop essential cookery skills from a young age. Improving cookery skills amongst children is an important gateway to a healthier diet and ensure children have the best opportunities in life.

Queen’s 90th birthday party, Castletown care home



It was lovely to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday recently with staff and residents of Northview Lodge Care Home in Castletown on Care Home Open Day. Media headlines around residential care all too often focus on the failings in social care and rarely on the daily successes. It was great to see first-hand the amazing work the care home staff do on a day-to-day basis especially on such a special occasion.

Keeping Schools Creative conference, Newcastle

As the Chair of the APPG for Arts, Craft and Design in Education, I was delighted to be asked to join a panel at the Discovery Museum to talk about creativity in schools. With teachers now under increased pressure to dedicate less time in the school day to artistic expression, which is having a detrimental impact on children’s creativity and social and mental wellbeing, we need to be working to address this issue, which is only being exacerbated by curriculum changes and performance measures such as the EBacc. All schools have the potential to be creative, vibrant learning spaces and I will continue to lobby the Government to recognise the importance of arts education.

Sharon Hodgson MP, Washington & Sunderland West Constituency
Units 1 & 1A, Vermont House, Vermont Road, Concord, Washington,
Tyne & Wear NE37 2SQ
Tel. 417 2000

Website: www.sharonhodgson.org E-mail: [info\(a\)sharonhodgson.org](mailto:info(a)sharonhodgson.org) Twitter: @SharonHodgsonMP