

# Harriet Harman QC MP

Member of Parliament for  
Camberwell and Peckham



*Annual Report 2009*

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### **Are you registered to vote?**

**If you have not registered to vote or you are not sure if you are on the electoral register - you can call Southwark Council on 0207 525 7373 or email [electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk)**

*This report has been funded by money from the House of Commons Communications Allowance*

# Introduction

We have made progress this year. The Police 1000 campaign that I launched in 2002 has succeeded. We now have 1,059 police officers in Southwark - of course we still need more! We have saved the Camberwell Baths by persuading the government to give us the money to refurbish them. And the agreement for the go ahead to the East London Line Phase 2b means Surrey Quays will be linked to Clapham Junction through Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye and Queens Road Peckham. Unfortunately, I am now fighting the Mayor of London over the proposed closure of the South London Line.

We have won the battle for a segregated area for mental health patients at Kings College Hospital Accident and Emergency department. We were promised this when the local health authority closed the Maudsley Emergency Clinic across the road, but we had to fight to ensure that it was delivered.

Services in the borough have improved. Government investment in Children's and Family Services has risen by 98 per cent since 2001. The GCSE results have improved dramatically. And with the increase in GPs, every resident can find a family doctor.

We await the inquest on the tragic fire in Lakanal House which killed six people and left many unanswered questions. The government has agreed to my call for a "super inquest" so that the important and complex issues that contributed to the deaths will be properly examined and lessons learnt. I have called for it to be in Southwark Town Hall so local people can attend.

It is a privilege being your MP and I am proud to represent in Parliament such a diverse and thriving constituency.

Harriet Harman MP

Harriet Harman

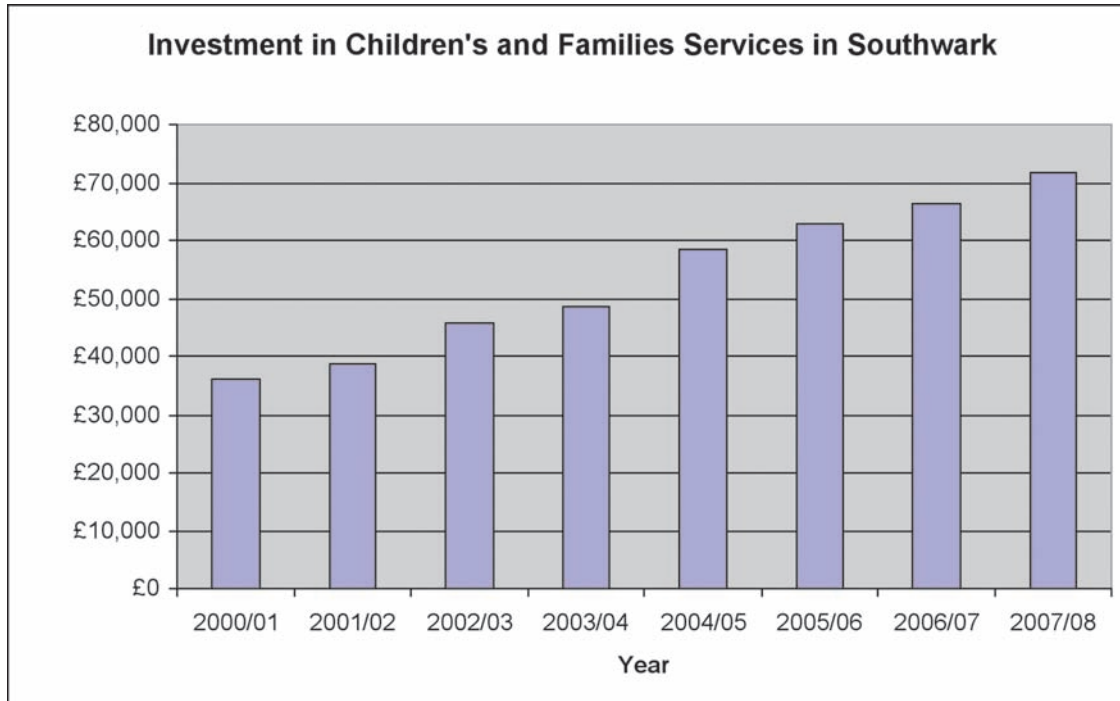




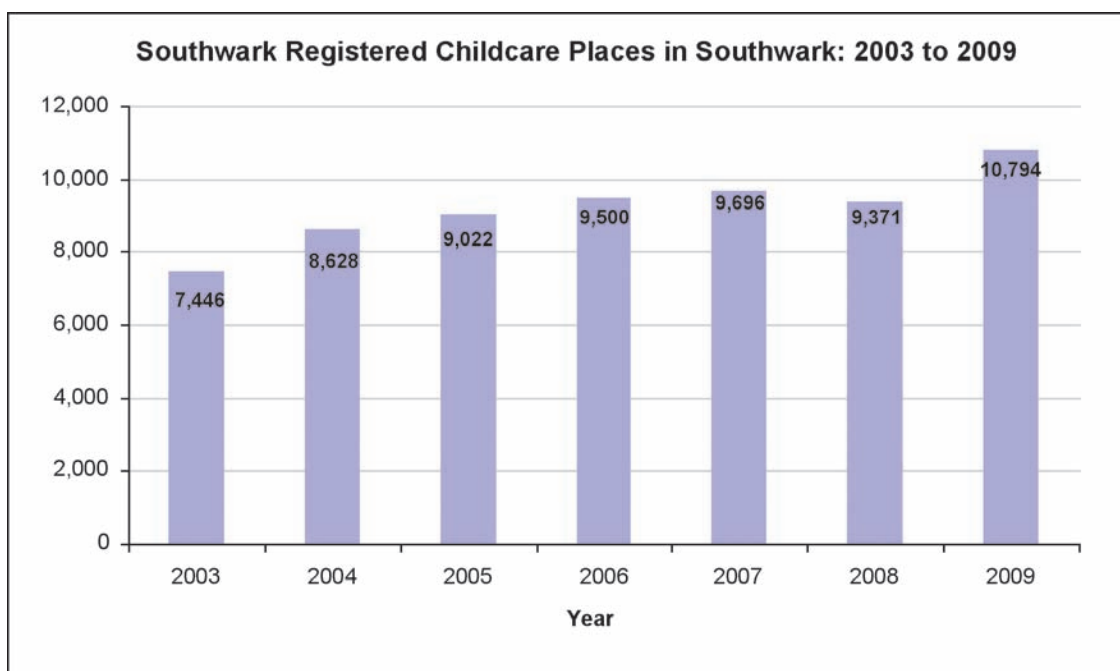
# Young people in Camberwell and Peckham

## Children's services – a vital resource for families

Most mothers in Camberwell and Peckham work as well as care for their children. As many don't have relatives living nearby who can help, high quality, affordable childcare with flexible hours is really important. Many constituents used to complain about not being able to get childcare and would contact me regularly about it. The money allocated to Southwark Council for Children's and Families Services has increased by 98% since 2001 and I hardly ever see mothers who are desperate to work but cannot find childcare.



I am pleased that the most recent figures show childcare places in Southwark have increased from 7,446 in 2003 to 10,794 in 2009.



## Southwark children getting better results at schools

Young people in Southwark want to do well and parents always tell me that what is most important to them is that their children leave school with good results and a good start in life.

There has been a huge improvement in GCSE results in Camberwell and Peckham. The number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A-C has increased from 29% to 69% in recent years.



This is due to the hard work of pupils and teachers and the support of parents – backed up by investment in education in Southwark which has more than doubled in recent years. If you would like to see a full breakdown of the GCSE results for the schools in Camberwell and Peckham visit my website at [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org)

In July I joined pupils at Sacred Heart School in Camberwell to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

*Harriet Harman MP celebrating Sacred Heart School's 50th Anniversary July 2009*

On 7th September I visited the Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich in Lyall Avenue, East Dulwich as 150 boys started the new school year. The Principal, Bart Cannon, showed me around. The academy is housed temporarily at Langbourne Primary School, in Kingswood Estate, West Dulwich and I look forward to the boys moving to the new site in Peckham Rye next summer. I will stay in close contact with the Principal and everyone involved in helping the school make a smooth transition to its new site next year. Young people from Camberwell and Peckham are going to be an important part of the success of this country in the future.

*Harriet Harman MP visiting Harris Boys Academy, September 2009*



## Leisure

### Winning the campaign to save the Camberwell Baths

The Camberwell Baths have served the local community well and need to stay open. I strongly supported the bid for government money to refurbish the baths.

I invited the Minister for Sport, Gerry Sutcliffe MP to the baths on 21st January to see them for himself. Pupils from Lyndhurst Primary School, who use the baths, met the Minister and told him why we needed the money. I was delighted that in April we were allocated £1.4million of government funding - the full amount we asked for.



*Harriet Harman MP and the Minister for Sport with pupils from Lyndhurst Primary school, January 2009*

## Community safety

### Police 1000: working for a stronger police presence in Southwark

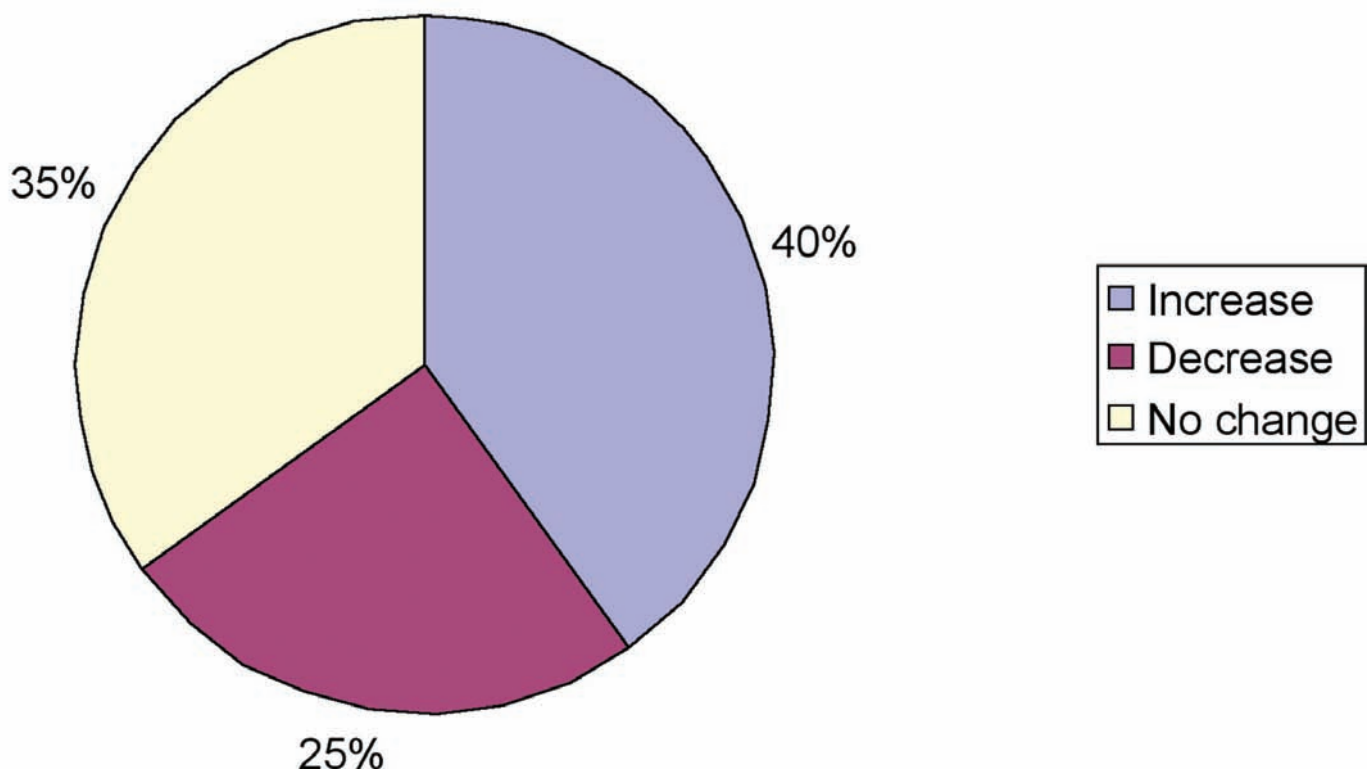
My constituents have been demanding more police in the borough as a top priority for years and Southwark Police have said they need 1000 officers. In response, I launched the "Police 1000" campaign in 2002 to reach that target. Thanks to all the people who have helped with the campaign including Southwark Police, local MPs, our London Assembly Member, Val Shawcross and local councillors, we reached 1,059 officers in Southwark in July this year.

Many constituents still write to me because they are concerned about local crime, particularly groups of young people who "hang around" near their homes. This is something which I will be discussing with the Borough Commander Superintendent Wayne Chance at the next Police 1000 meeting in December.

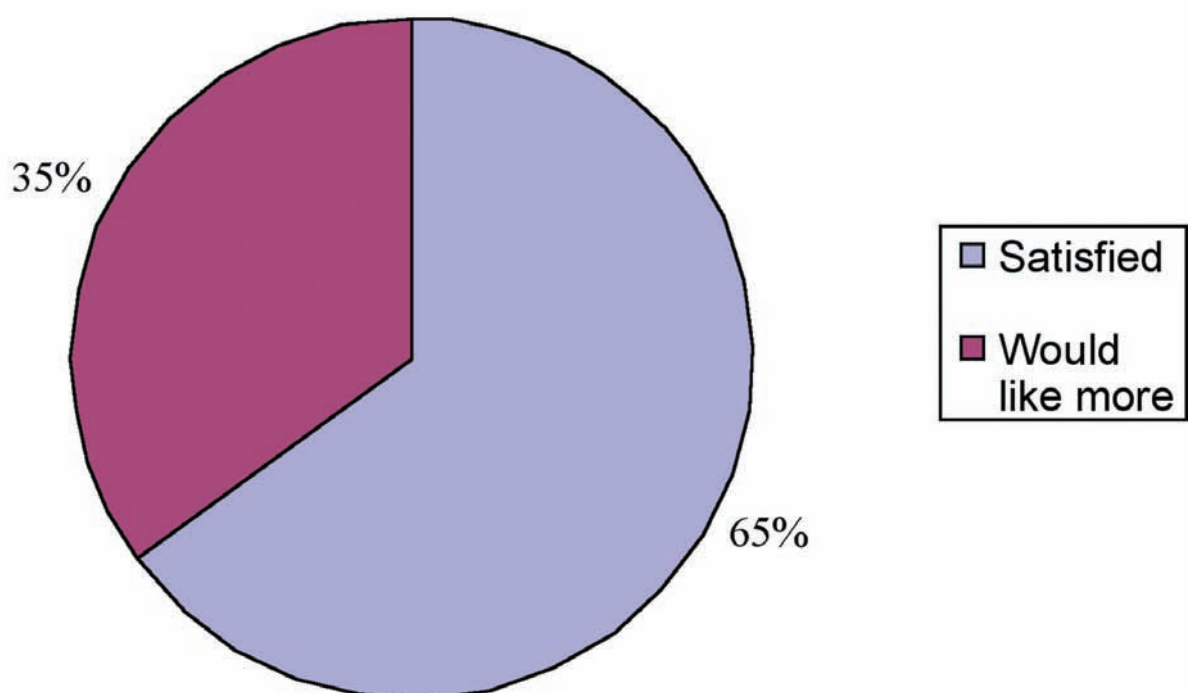
Date	March 2002	March 2003	March 2004	Feb 2005	July 2007	July 2009
Police Officers	775	808	850	868	873	926
Police Community Support Officers	n/a	n/a	n/a	36	87	133
Total	775	808	850	904	960	1059

I was encouraged to hear that when I surveyed the Tenants and Residents Associations in Camberwell and Peckham 65% said they were satisfied with the number of police patrolling their area, and 40% told me they have seen an increase – however we still need more.

Have you noticed an increase in police patrolling your area?



Are you satisfied with the number of police patrolling in your area?

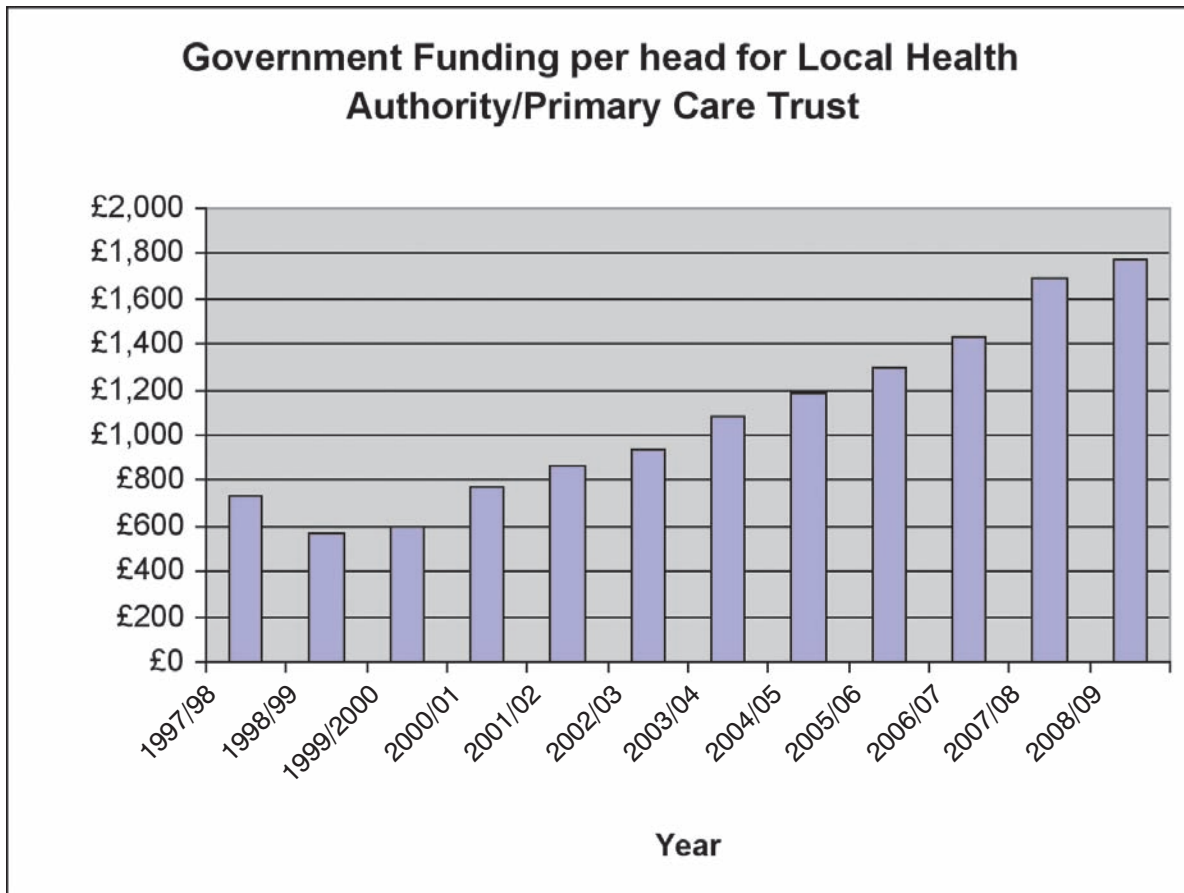




# Health services

## GP services in Camberwell and Peckham

GP services have improved massively in recent years. In the past, many people in Camberwell and Peckham found it difficult to get onto a GP's list because they were not taking new patients. I have worked with Southwark Primary Care Trust to make sure all GP's lists are 'open'. Even better news is that we now have no GP vacancies in Southwark, with the number rising from 155 in 2003 to 191 in 2009. The government has increased its investment for health provision in Southwark in recent years from £737 per head to £1,777.



I receive quarterly updates of Southwark GP data and am encouraged to see that since July 2007 no one has had to wait longer than 48 hours to see their GP. I will continue to monitor this, but due to increases in the pay of GPs, together with concerted action by the Southwark Primary Care Trust, we now have a much improved GP service.

*However if you are still experiencing difficulties getting a GP or getting an appointment to see a GP contact me or Southwark Primary Care Trust at 6th Floor, Mabel Goldwin House, 49 Grange Walk, London, SE13DY, Tel: 0207 525 0400.*

## Opening the Lister Health Walk-in Centre in Peckham

In September I opened the first walk-in GP centre in Southwark. I am pleased that it has been established in Peckham, in the heart of a community which needs it most. The centre is open 7 days a week, including bank holidays and has seen over 3,500 patients walk through its doors in the first 3 months.

It serves the whole community – whether you are registered with a GP or not. It is a great example of good healthcare for everyone.





The centre is at 101 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LJ. You can get there by bus no 12, 36, 171, 343, 345, 436, Bus Stop – The Academy at Peckham. The centre is open from 8am – 8pm 7 days a week including bank holidays.

*Harriet Harman MP with Dr Mark Ashworth opening the Lister Health Centre Walk in Clinic, September 2009*

## Winning the fight for better services for mental health users

When people need emergency psychiatric help, it is vital for them and for their relatives that they get immediate treatment. Our local Community Mental Health teams – who see people in their own home – do a great job and have improved out of all recognition over the last few years. But when sudden mental illness strikes – or recurs – there must be somewhere to go.

Until May 2007, the walk-in emergency department for people with mental health problems at the Maudsley Hospital on Denmark Hill worked well. In 2005 the local health authority - Southwark Primary Care Trust - voted to close it, despite the protests of Southwark and Lambeth MPs including me, Southwark MIND and Southwark Pensioners Action Group. Many of my constituents, who have used the Maudsley Emergency Clinic over the years, contacted me at the time to protest. We were promised that there would be new and better specialist services at Kings Accident and Emergency on the other side of the road.

The Health Minister told the House of Commons in February 2007 that she welcomed plans to “create a designated space at King’s College hospital...to provide a safe and segregated area for mental health service users requiring assessment”. The local health authority promised this when they asked the Health Department for permission to close the Maudsley Emergency clinic and patients expected it.

But when King’s published their plans earlier this year there was no separate area for mental health patients.

All of us who protested about the plans for the closure of the Maudsley Emergency Clinic expressed our concern about the new plans. Cubicles dotted around the main A and E with no separate reception areas is not “safe and segregated”.

On 17th June I received confirmation that the Emergency College Department Board had agreed to our demands and will make provision for a safe and secure area for patients with mental health emergencies adjacent to the main emergency department. I am very pleased.

*Harriet Harman MP with other South London MPs attending a meeting at Kings College Hospital, February 2009*



## The African community in Southwark

I am proud to represent the diverse and thriving constituency of Camberwell and Peckham. We have the largest African diaspora in the UK, with about a third of my constituents coming from Africa and others coming from the Caribbean, South America and many other parts of the world.

Strengthening links with the African community in Southwark is an important part of my work as a Member of Parliament. I have already visited Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. In April this year I visited Ghana. The Ghanaian community is one of the longest standing in Peckham. I visit Africa both to show my respect to the African community in my constituency and to reaffirm the UK's commitment to playing a leading role in



promoting development and tackling poverty internationally –particularly supporting women and girls in the developing world.

My Ghanaian constituents came to a meeting at Southwark Town Hall to brief me before I left. We talked about where I was visiting and what to look out for and I said I would report back on what I found. If you would like to read a copy of my report it can be found on my website [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org) under the "speeches and reports" section.

*Harriet Harman MP meeting with Ghanaian constituents in Southwark Town Hall, March 2009*

During my visit I travelled to Mangoase, a village of 1,500 people in the Bawjiase area – a two hour drive from Accra. The community is rural and most of the men are farmers. Most women's income is earned trading at the local markets of Bawjiase and Kasoa.

In Mangoase we visited Jei- Krodua Anglican School and met with members from the "Rights of the Child" club and women from the "Credit with Savings and Education" programme. With help from PLAN International (a charity which helps children in some of the poorest communities in the developing world) this programme helps women in rural communities save and borrow money.

Once a week women bring their savings and banking book to the credit savings meeting. In turn their names are called out and the women bank their savings for the week, which can be anything between 1-10 cedis (50p - £5). The trained bank official fills out the women's banking book and collects the money which is taken to the local bank a few miles away.

*Harriet Harman MP with women from the Village Savings and Loans Group, O brachire, April 2009*





## Making democracy more representative

October was Black History Month and I hosted a reception in the House of Commons with Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. The event celebrated the achievements of black educators and the raising of aspirations of students from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. Leading educationalist figures from the black and Asian community in Southwark joined us.

The reception also marked the launch of a mentor programme with Operation Black Vote to encourage more black and Asian women to become councillors, helping local councils make better decisions for their communities.

I am working to ensure more ethnic minority representation throughout our democracy. Out of 646 Members of Parliament there are currently 15 black and Asian MPs – 13 are Members of the Labour Party and 2 are Members of the Conservative Party. For the House of Commons to be representative of the United Kingdom we need four times more black and Asian Members of Parliament. In Southwark we have 8 black and Asian councillors of which 5 are women. If you are interested in getting involved in politics please contact me.

## Campaigning for better transport

Most Londoners will soon benefit from the investment in transport projects such as Thameslink, the underground upgrades and Crossrail. We must ensure that residents in Camberwell and Peckham are not left out.

I was pleased that the Secretary of State for Transport agreed to the demand from me and other South London MPs and gave the go-ahead to the East London Line Phase 2b earlier this year. This means phase two of the East London Line will be constructed before 2012 and will link Surrey Quays on the East London line extension to Clapham Junction, providing links through Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye and Queens Road Peckham.

### Saving the South London Line

The South London Line provides vital links for the local community as well as patients, staff and visitors between King's College Hospital and central London. It runs between Victoria and London Bridge via Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye, and Queens Road Peckham.

Transport for London (TfL) announced earlier this year that they plan to cut this service. I have been campaigning against these plans. I have written to the Mayor of London who is the Chair of TfL and insisted that he change his mind. TfL have agreed to review the South London Line and are due to publish their report this December.

I have also called a meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport to see what the Government can do to help. If you would like to join us in this campaign then please email me at [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk)

*Harriet Harman MP with local campaigners at Denmark Hill Station, June 2009*





# Housing in Southwark

## The Lakanal House fire

On Friday 3rd July six people died in a tragic fire. I believe this terrible tragedy raises two important questions. Why did the fire spread? Why were some people not rescued? Answers are important not just for the bereaved families but for the whole community, especially those who live in identical or similar blocks.

On the night of the fire I went down to Lakanal House as soon as I found out about it. I spoke with residents and thanked the Fire Service, Ambulance, Police and local council officers. I also went to the community centre on Bushey Hill Road which was being used for the tenants who had had to flee their flats in Lakanal. I was amazed how strong and brave everyone I spoke to was, including a 70 year old woman who thought she was going to die as her flat filled up with smoke and as she waited for over half an hour before being rescued.

I went to the estate and the community centre again on Saturday morning to be sure that everything possible was being done to help the residents, including helping them get re-housed.

Over the weekend I kept the Prime Minister and John Denham MP, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, informed.

I felt that the inquest into the tragic deaths should not be "ordinary" and wait in the queue at the Southwark Coroner's Court. The Government agreed to my call for a "super inquest" and Jack Straw MP, the Secretary of State for Justice, has appointed Mr Justice Thane Forbes to conduct it. I have called for it to be held in Southwark Town Hall, so local people will be able to attend.

I welcome the appointment of Justice Thane Forbes which will give confidence to the relatives and the local community that the important and complex issues which contributed to these deaths will be properly examined and lessons learnt.

The families obviously want the inquests to be as soon as possible. They want to know why those who died were told to stay in their flats when they could have survived if they had gone down the stairs and why the advice was not changed when it was clear that the fire was spreading from flat to flat. I am pleased that Justice Thane Forbes has agreed to my request to hold a directions hearing in December so that the families can meet with him and he can explain how he plans to conduct the inquest.

For the many victims who lost their homes in the fire, I have worked to ensure that they are properly looked after and re-housed as a matter of urgency. So far 76 out of 96 tenants have accepted an offer of a new home. All households have had at least two offers of accommodation and a third and final offer is about to be made. I will continue to press Southwark Council to make sure that all former residents of Lakanal are suitably rehoused.

So far, I have helped secure permanent accommodation for 12 former residents in areas such as Bermondsey, Dulwich and Nunhead. I have ensured that they have been offered furniture as well as financial compensation and helped them with many other issues arising from the fire, like obtaining duplicates of burnt documentation.

I will continue to work to ensure that the inquest takes place as soon as possible.

## Southwark leaseholders – “fight for fairness campaign”

In February I met about 50 leaseholders in St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church Hall from all over Camberwell and Peckham. Councillor Paul Bates chaired the meeting. Martin Green from Southwark Council Home Owner's Unit and representatives from the Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE) came and spoke to leaseholders and answered questions. Real grievances were aired.



I will continue to work with leaseholders to help fight the unfairness they have experienced in Southwark and tackle the problems of window replacements, heating charges and more general issues - like itemising their charges and explaining them clearly.

*Harriet Harman MP meeting with Southwark Leaseholders in February 2009*

## Southampton Way Estate

I visit the estates in my constituency on a regular basis. In July I visited the Southampton Way Estate. Representatives from the Tenants and Residents Association had contacted me about the disrepair of the two blocks in Marchwood Close. I invited the Housing Officer and Repairs Manager from Southwark Council to join us on a walk-about so the residents could raise their concerns.

I was deeply concerned with the general maintenance of both of the blocks in Marchwood Close including:

- Internal steel structure exposed through crumbling concrete
- Falling ceilings
- No entry system, although I am advised that one had been promised
- Stagnant water collecting in doorways
- Cracked windows
- Damp in the kitchens and bathrooms
- Residents complaining of drafts through windows and doors

I contacted Southwark Council raising individual constituents' particular housing complaints as well as the general state of disrepair. Scaffolding has since been erected on one of the blocks and emergency work is being carried out on the internal steel structure. Southwark Council have started work on individual homes – however they have done nothing major. I will continue to put pressure on the Council to ensure that these much needed works are started.

*Harriet Harman MP meeting with resident in Marchwood Close, July 2009*



## **The regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate**

The Aylesbury Estate is the largest council housing estate in Europe with 2,758 homes and about 7,500 residents. Plans to regenerate the area began back in the 1990's and I am pleased that work has finally started. This is one of the longest standing issues which constituents contact me about.

When I wrote to all residents earlier in the year asking for their views, the top three concerns were; the implications of the Aylesbury regeneration, maintenance of flats, and housing repairs. Many asked for my help in contacting Southwark Council about work needed in their homes such as tackling damp, mould and leaks. Many also said they need bigger homes for their expanding families, more space for the children and better play area facilities.

If you are a resident on the Aylesbury and have a housing problem you would like my help, please contact me. You can write to Harriet Harman MP, at the House of Commons, SW1 0AA, send me an email to [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk) or come to one of my advice surgeries at Southwark Town Hall.

## **Older person's dwellings on the Consort Estate**

Many of my constituents have contacted me about the older person's dwellings on the Consort Estate. In February Southwark Council decided to change the classification of the properties reserved for residents over 55 and allocate them to applicants with no age limit.

The older residents had not been consulted and the decision was taken at an area Housing Forum with no representative from the Consort Estate Tenants and Residents Association. I contacted Southwark Council to demand a moratorium on this decision and insisted that they conduct a full consultation of the affected residents before continuing.

Tenants told me they liked living among other residents of a similar age and were anxious that their block had been changed with no proper consultation. There was particular concern about the reclassification of the older person's flats in Wivenhoe Close, as they are on the first floor directly above a Sheltered Housing Unit. I was pleased that in November Southwark Council reversed their decision to return the flats in Wivenhoe Close to the general pool and have re-classified them to remain for people over 55. It is only right that the Council have agreed to our demands and done a U-turn on their decision.

## **The Caroline Gardens' Chapel**

Caroline Gardens is a beautiful nineteenth century development of former alms houses which are now 170 council homes for people over 50. It is Grade II listed and is an architectural jewel just off the Old Kent Road. The tenants are very community-minded and have an active residents committee but no community centre of their own.

In the centre of Caroline Gardens is a chapel, which was used by artists but is now empty and deteriorating. The residents have campaigned to take over the chapel and use it as a community resource, while preserving it for future generations. I strongly back this campaign.



Southwark Council have been unable to raise the money to regenerate this building and earlier this year put the chapel up for sale. I am strongly opposed to this. Elderly residents do not want people from outside their community coming into the estate to use the building. I have asked the Council for residents to be given a veto if they are unhappy with the organisation the council decide to sell the chapel to. I believe that the Council have refused to let the residents have a say in the future of their own chapel.



## Support for Southwark businesses during the economic downturn

The banking crisis started in the US and clearly affected our banks which cut down on lending to local businesses. They were being told by their bank, "sorry, but we are not continuing your borrowing facility, we're cutting it right down and at the same time charging you much more to borrow much less".

In January this year I called a "Credit Crunch Summit" which was chaired by Southwark Chamber of Commerce and attended by representatives from a broad range of Southwark businesses. I wanted to hear their views and discuss what actions would help them most during this difficult economic time.

I listened with interest to the concerns of local businesses and found out what more they thought the government should be doing and their reaction to Government action that had been taken so far. Some of the suggestions raised by businesses at the meeting were:

- The provision of longer and free parking for shoppers
- The scrapping of Business rates
- A moratorium on Employers NI contributions
- A moratorium on student loan and tuition fee repayments
- Extending the void rates on empty properties

I am a member of the National Economic Council (NEC) which the Prime Minister convenes and meets regularly to discuss the global economic recession. I was able to feed in the concerns which were raised with me.

## Constituency casework - helping local people

Over the past 27 years serving as the Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham, I have helped many of my constituents to resolve a variety of different issues. People seek my help for many different reasons: their housing situation; immigration status; benefit entitlement; and many other issues. I always do what I can to try and help.

If you need my help you can email me at [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk), write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or come to one of my regular advice surgeries at Southwark Town Hall.

About 60 people come to each surgery. They tell me - and my team - what the problem is and we tell them what I am able to do to help. I then write and keep them informed of the progress on their case. I know my surgeries are important for those I can help, but they also help me meet and keep in touch with the concerns of my constituents.

I would like to thank those who have helped at my advice surgery over the past year: Vicky Naish, Nancy Hammond, Councillor Lorraine Lauder, Simon Ruse, Sarah Foster, Maxine Jarrett, Chris Duggan and Mo Akinshipe.

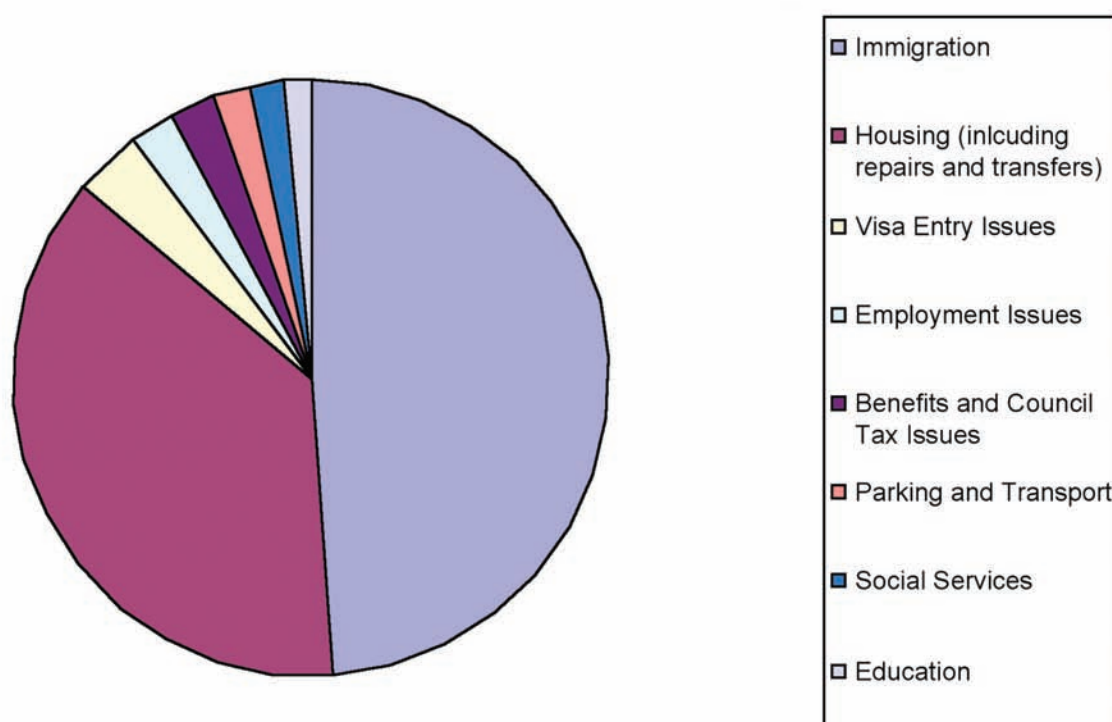
If you want to attend one of my regular advice surgeries you can find further details on my website at [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org) or call 0207 219 4218. **You do not need to book an appointment.**

### Casework issues

So far this year I have helped over 1,555 of my constituents who have contacted me. Below are some of examples:

- Constituent A lived in Peckham. He and his two teenage sons had moved out of Southwark to temporary accommodation in Greenwich for their personal safety after a vicious attack by a large gang of youths. Their transfer to permanent accommodation had stalled because of a lack of communication between the two local authorities. I liaised with both local authorities to ensure that the matter was resolved. He and his sons were subsequently offered a new home in Peckham which has allowed them to get on with their lives.
- Constituent B lives in Camberwell and his dilapidated property needed to be repaired. The repairs stalled because his application for a Housing Renewal Grant, which had been made two years previously, had not been processed by Southwark Council. I pressed the council and his application was approved and works begun on his home. Now he is looking forward to moving into his refurbished property with his daughter before Christmas.
- Constituent C needed help to enable him to attend his mother's funeral in Nigeria. He did not have his passport as he had an outstanding application at the Home Office for Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom. I wrote to the Home Office explaining the compassionate nature of his situation. The Home Office were able to expedite their decision which was to grant him discretionary leave to remain. He was able to attend the funeral.
- Constituent D's home was destroyed by the tragic Lakanal fire. He was a private tenant who was renting the flat from a Southwark Leaseholder. After the fire I ensured that Southwark Council offered my constituent temporary accommodation in Catford and financial assistance to buy things like new clothes and furniture. My constituent has now found privately rented accommodation in Southwark and moved into his new home.
- Constituent E attended one of my advice surgeries after Southwark Council began procedures to evict her from her property in Nunhead due to arrears. She was terrified that she and her young son would be made homeless and explained that the council owed her money as they had not been paying her enough Housing Benefit. I wrote to Southwark Council requesting that they pay all outstanding monies owed to my constituent. They awarded her over £2,000 and she was not evicted. My constituent then made a payment plan to reduce all other debts.

The reasons that constituents contact me for help



## Dates of upcoming advice surgeries

**Southwark Town Hall ,Peckham Road, SE5 8UB**

Tuesday 12th January	5pm
Friday 22nd January	9am
Friday 29th January	9am
Friday 5th February	9am
Tuesday 16th February	5pm
Friday 26th February	9am
Friday 5th March	9am
Friday 19th March	9am
Friday 26th March	9am
Friday 9th April	9am
Tuesday 13th April	5pm
Tuesday 20th April	5pm

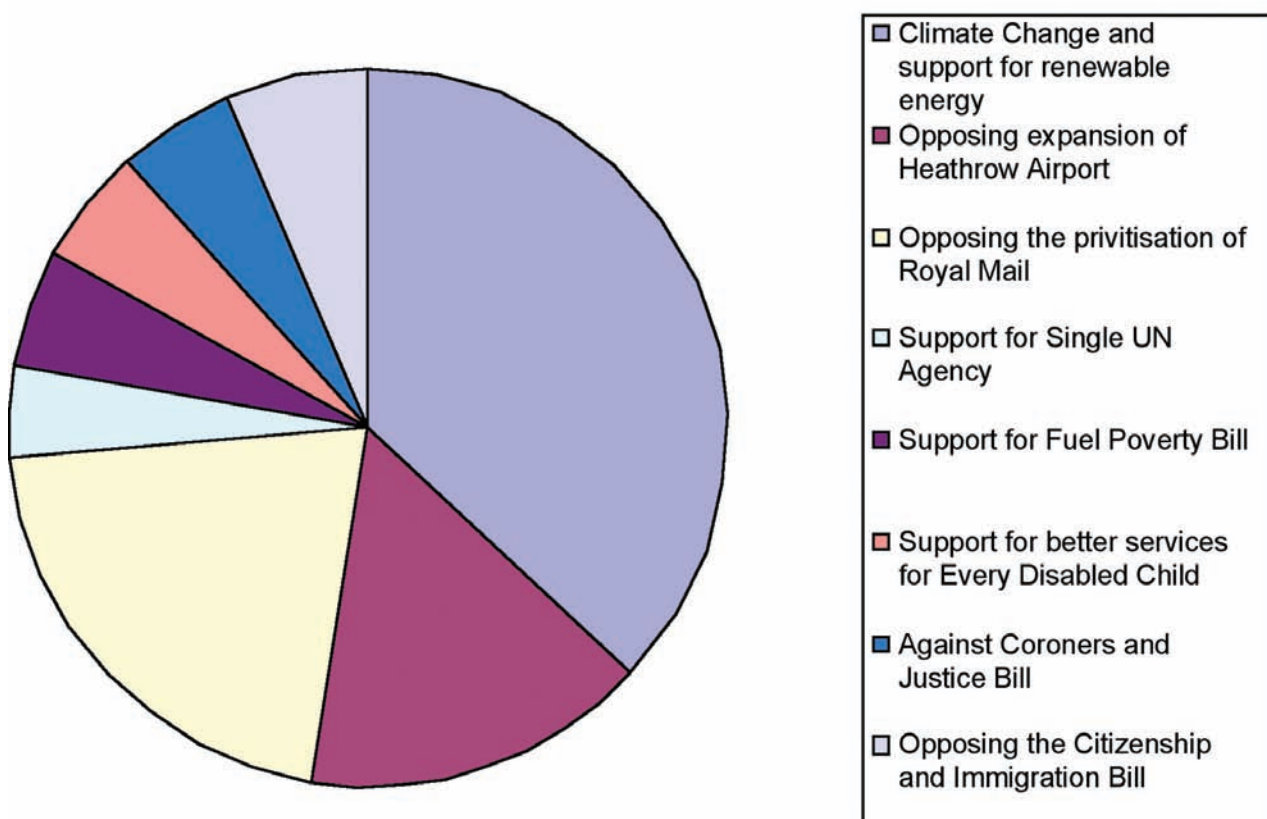
**Buses 12, 36, 171, 345 and 453 all stop outside**

## Parliament and policy

The letters and emails I have received over the past year demonstrate that the people of Camberwell and Peckham are concerned about a wide range of issues.

I have made representations to a variety of Government Ministers and Departments on behalf of concerns raised by my constituents and I will continue to represent their views in Parliamentary debates. Issues raised over the last 12 months include:

Policy Issues most Frequently Raised by my Constituents 2009





# My ministerial roles

## Leader of the House of Commons

As well as a local Member of Parliament I am also a member of the Cabinet. I am the Leader of the House of Commons and the Secretary of State for Equalities. As Leader of the House of Commons I have been working to ensure that the system of MPs expenses is sorted out.

There has been great public anger about the expenses system and many people have written to me or raised it with me when I have knocked on their door. People in this country need to be able to have full trust and confidence in their parliament. What happened under the old allowance system has undermined that confidence.

MPs recognised that to ensure that we have a system in which everyone can have confidence, we needed to take action.

The old system has been changed so that MPs do not regulate their own expenses. It is now done by an independent body and the House of Commons Authorities are ensuring that any overpayments which were made under the old system are paid back.

## Secretary of State for Equalities

As Minister for Equalities I am proud to be taking the new Equality Bill through Parliament. Camberwell and Peckham is exactly the kind of place that will benefit from this Bill.

It will simplify and strengthen the law, promote equality, and fight discrimination in all its forms. For the government, equality is a matter of principle- it always has been- and we want to address the serious inequalities that still exist. Addressing those inequalities and creating a fairer society is important for three reasons.

- Fairness is important for the individual. No one should have to endure discrimination.
- Fairness is important for our society- a society that is equal and fair is one that is more at ease with itself.
- Fairness is important for our economy- an economy that sees no one pushed to the margins or excluded succeeds because it draws on the talents and abilities of all. Diversity makes us outward facing and helps us to compete in the global economy.

To read more about the Equality Bill and my work as Minister for Equalities you can visit the website at <http://www.equalities.gov.uk/Default.aspx>

## My office and team

As a Government Minister, I work with civil servants in the Cabinet Office and the Government Equalities Office. For my constituency work I have constituency and parliamentary offices which are led by Dora Dixon-Fyle and Charlotte Montague.

Details of my Parliamentary Allowances for the last 7 years are on my website – [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org). As an inner London MP I do not claim for a second home.

# Harriet Harman MP for Camberwell and Peckham

## Tell Me What You Think

**As your local Member of Parliament, it is very important for me to hear your views. Please could you spare a few moments to complete this survey? When completed just fold along lines on back and put in post – you do not need a stamp.**

What are the top three issues that concern you? (Local or National)

Issue 1:

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Issue 2:

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Issue 3:

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How well do you think I am doing as your local Member of Parliament?

(1 unsatisfactory – 5 excellent)

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

Name:

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Address:

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Telephone

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E-mail:

The information provided is for the use of Harriet Harman MP and her office staff only. The information provided will not be passed to a third party or any other organisation. The cost of this publication was met from the House of Commons Communications Expenditure.

FOLD 1

FOLD 3

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FOLD 2

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