Dear Friend,

**New Credit Union HQ in Peckham**
I was delighted to open the new head office of the London Mutual Credit Union (LMCU) in Peckham on the 31st January. Staffed by local people, it offers a range of services including alternative ‘payday’ loans costing a fraction of the rate loan sharks charge.

**Campaign to save South London emergency services**
I joined supporters of the Campaign to Save Lewisham A&E and maternity services outside the Ministry for Health on the 30th January to hand a petition to the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP. Following his announcement, the next day, to downgrade the A&E and close maternity services, I wrote a joint letter with fellow South London MP’s to express my concerns about the devastating impact these cuts will have on King’s College Hospital, with more patients having to come to King’s.

**Visiting Rye Lane Traders** - Rye Lane retailers have recently re-formed a Traders’ Association and I met with members on the 31st January to listen to their concerns about trade, custom and community safety in the area. I was joined by Southwark Mayor Althea Smith and Councillors’ Rowenna Davis, Sunil Chopra and Nick Dolezal.

**Meeting Southwark Council Leader Peter John & Labour Group Councillors**
Earlier this month I met Cllr Peter John at the Council offices in Tooley Street to discuss how we can improve services for our constituents including saving our local fire and police services, and bringing the tube to Camberwell & Peckham. I also met with the Labour Group to discuss casework and sharing expertise.

**Eastleigh By Election – Only 1 week to go!**
I launched the campaign with our fantastic candidate John O’Farrell. Students from Barton Peveril College put him through his paces when we attended a “Question Time” style debate. This by-election on the 28th February is an opportunity for local people to send a message to the Tory/Lib-Dem Government that the cuts are not working. Please support the campaign – Hotline: 023 8061 3357/Campaign HQ: 69 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, S050 9DF/ Twitter: @eastleighlab

**Since my last report activities include:**
- Othello at the Bussey Building Peckham
- Challenging Nick Clegg at Deputy PMQ’s
- Key note speech on Labour Arts Policy
- Cross party talks on Leveson
- DCMS Questions on the arts
- SW Regional Conference Exeter

**PPC Selections for Target Seats and AWs in London**
Following consultation with local Labour constituency parties, the NEC has decided on 12 target seats for London, 5 of which will be choosing from All Women Shortlists. Information on how to apply for selection will be posted in the ‘Parliamentary Selections’ page on ‘Membersnet’. The list is available on: http://www.labour.org.uk/parliamentary-selections-update,2013-02-15

Yours,

Harriet

p.s. For further info about my work as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport please see my website www.harrietharman.org or follow me on twitter www.twitter.com/harrietharman
Child Poverty in Camberwell and Peckham

The Campaign to End Child Poverty - a coalition of over 100 NGO’s – has just published a report mapping child poverty across the UK. The figures are broken down by Parliamentary constituency, local authority and ward. You can download the report at: http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/why-end-child-poverty/poverty-in-your-area

The figures for Camberwell and Peckham are deeply worrying. The total number of children estimated to be living in poverty in the constituency as a whole is 7,858 or 26%. In plain terms that is just over a quarter or 1 in 4 children locally.

The ward breakdown is even more concerning as it shows wide disparities between areas within the constituency:

- Peckham Rye 15% (468)
- South Camberwell 21% (546)
- The Lane 23% (797)
- Brunswick Park 25% (750)
- Nunhead 27% (814)
- Camberwell Green 27% (964)
- Peckham 30% (1,238)
- Faraday 30% (1,020)
- Livesey 35% (1,258)

We’ve come a long way since the last Labour government legislated to eradicate child poverty in a generation. Progress continued all the way to 2010, despite the economic crisis, because of a decision to prioritise protection of the poorest children and families through extra investment in financial support for children.

Now hundreds of children and families in Camberwell & Peckham will be hit by the Tory/Lib-Dem Government’s cuts when welfare changes come in later this year. Action at a local level can make a difference. With the Tory/Lib-Dem Government devolving more decisions about how families are supported to a local level, it’s all the more important that we have a Labour council protecting children and families across the Borough.

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MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE NOW AT
Walcourt Methodist Church ‘Clubland’
54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EN

Tue 26 Feb 5pm
Tue 5 Mar 5pm
Fri 15 Mar 9am
Fri 22 Mar 9am
Tue 9 Apr 5pm
Fri 19 Apr 9am
Fri 26 Apr 9am
Fri 3 May 9am

Getting to Clubland: Bus Routes: 468, 148, 171, 45, 68, 176, 12

Casework Update February 2013

Since my last monthly report:
- I took action on 232 cases
- Including 148 new cases
- 3 Advice Surgeries
- 116 people attended surgery
- Average reply time: 9 days