

Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

GC Report - January 2013

17th January 2013

Dear Friend,

Fatal stabbing on the Aylesbury Estate

Following the death of a teenager on the Aylesbury estate in December, my deepest condolences go to the family of the young person who lost his life. I know the whole community will feel affected by this devastating loss. The police are keeping me updated on developments in bringing those responsible to justice.

Lakanal Fire Inquest begins

This week I attended the start of the inquest into the tragic fire at Lakanal House which killed six people—including three children. It's been over three years since the fire - that's too long a time for the bereaved families to wait for answers. Since the fire I have repeatedly called on police and fire investigators to 'get a move on' to allow the inquest to look for safety lessons. Following the inquest I will be urging government to learn lessons from this and find ways to improve the speed at which cases are brought to inquest.



Fire station closures in Southwark - Peckham firefighters have been campaigning against the cuts to London fire services proposed by London Mayor Boris Johnson and the Tory-Lib Dem Government. I visited Peckham Fire Station this morning to talk to the firefighters about the valuable work they do for communities in Camberwell and Peckham. Sign the petition to save Southwark Fire Services here: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/41043>



Responding to the Police and Crime Plan for Southwark

Earlier this month the Mayor of London released his Police and Crime Plan. I attended the public meeting at City Hall along with London Assembly Member Val Shawcross and the Leader of Southwark Council, Cllr Peter John. At the meeting, the Metropolitan Police told us that London would be getting 2,000 new police officers. They must take the opportunity to recruit men and women from the black community so the police can reflect the communities they serve. This will help police community relations which are so important in the fight against crime. The new Equality Act allows them to do this. They should use it.

Repeating my call for government to give local people a say about betting shops

More than £187million was spent on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) in Camberwell and Peckham's 35 betting shops in 2011. This month I renewed my call on the Government to take action and give local people a say in whether new betting shops can open on their high streets challenging the government during a recent Culture, Media and Sport questions.

Opposing Lewisham A&E Closure - This week I joined South London MPs to meet Jeremy Hunt Secretary of State for Health. We are calling on the Tory-Lib Dem government to keep Lewisham A&E and maternity services open after officials recommended they close as part of a reorganisation of the NHS in London. I am concerned that if Lewisham A&E and maternity services close, King's College Hospital will see a big increase in patients and this will affect services for local people.



Yours

Harriet

Impact of the Tory-Lib Dem Welfare Cuts on people in Camberwell & Peckham

Thousands of people in Camberwell & Peckham will be hit by the Tory-Lib Dem government's cuts when welfare changes come in later this year.

Benefit Cap - From April 2013 the amount of benefit a family can receive will be capped. This applies mostly for out-of-work households as well women on maternity leave and carers.

- 294 households in Camberwell & Peckham will lose out
- The average weekly loss is £72.16[†]



Council Tax Benefit—The Tory-Lib Dem government is cutting money for council tax benefit by giving Southwark Council 10% less money than they currently get. Southwark Council has drawn up its own support scheme to decide who gets what. The government has said pensioners must be protected so that means other people on council tax support will lose out by 16-25%.

- 11,744 households in Camberwell & Peckham will be affected

Bedroom Tax—The government is cutting the amount of housing benefit people can claim if they are deemed to have a spare room in their council or housing association home.

- 1,237 households will lose 14% of their housing benefit
- 493 households in Camberwell & Peckham will lose 25% of their housing benefit

Tax credits—The working age benefits and tax credits that many working families rely on will only rise by 1% in April this year. When food and other necessities are rising faster than 1% so this will hurt working families struggling to make ends meet.

- 8,700 families in Camberwell & Peckham receiving working tax credit will be affected

[†] Average for Southwark

CONTACT BY POST:
HARRIET House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

ONLINE:
harrietharman.org
@HarrietHarman

BY PHONE:
0207 219 4218

BY EMAIL:
harmanh@parliament.uk

MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE NOW AT Walworth Methodist Church 'Clubland' 54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EN



Fri 11 Jan 9am
Fri 18 Jan 9am
Tue 29 Jan 5pm

Fri 8 Feb 9am
Fri 15 Feb 9am
Tue 26 Feb 5pm

Tue 5 Mar 5pm
Fri 15 Mar 9am

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

2012 Casework Update

In 2012:

- I took action on 5,000 cases
- Including 1,744 new cases
- 65% came by email
- 30% came from people attending an advice surgery
- 5% sent a letter or fax or phoned
- Average reply time: 9 days

Total number of cases by year

