Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham
Newsletter - September 2014

Tackling the stigma of mental health
The South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust in Camberwell is the largest provider of mental health services in the UK. The new Chief Executive, Dr. Matthew Patrick, who I met earlier this month, is determined to improve the services, changing public perceptions of mental health and pioneering new support programmes in the community.

Celebrating Southwark Pensioners Centre 100th Anniversary
Undeterred by the rain, members, volunteers and supporters celebrated in style under a marquee at SPC’s ‘Party in the Park’ on Camberwell Green. The Pimms flowed as guests mingled and enjoyed the music. The Centre provides vital services to pensioner’s in Southwark as well as being a friendly place to meet. Thanks to Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle for making it happen.

Challenging Simon Hughes to vote against the Bedroom Tax
New figures on the Bedroom Tax show that 3,557 households in Southwark are paying on average £1,058 more a year for the Bedroom Tax. This means that £3.75m in total is going from low income households in Southwark to the Government. It is a disgrace that Simon Hughes MP voted for the Bedroom Tax which makes so many of the people he’s supposed to represent worse off.

Southwark Labour Borough Conference
The Beormund Community Centre in Bermondsey was packed with local members and councillors for Southwark Labour’s annual conference. Having re-elected a Labour Council this year Southwark Labour councillors and their leader, Peter John, will strive to continue to improve services for local people.

#LetsStayTogether – Scottish referendum campaigning
I’ve been campaigning in both Edinburgh and Glasgow with local members, MP’s and councillors – visiting communities and listening to people’s views on independence.

Campaigning in C&P ahead of the 2015 General Election
Many local Labour Party members and councillors joined me to campaign on the Pelican Estate in Peckham in September and I joined Faraday ward members to meet up with people on the Aylesbury Estate and Nunhead members at their monthly branch meeting.

Prime Minister’s Questions in Parliament
I stood in for Ed Miliband at Prime Minister’s Questions on the 10th September, following the decision that he, David Cameron and Nick Clegg would travel to Scotland to listen to peoples views ahead of the referendum, and called for Scotland to stay in the UK.

p.s. These are just some of my activities. For further information about my work in the constituency, as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport please see my website www.harrietharman.org
The Ebola Crisis in West Africa: Action for Diaspora communities in Camberwell & Peckham

Over 2,500 people have died from this terrible condition since the outbreak was first reported earlier this year. It escalated over the summer, spreading from Guinea to other countries in West Africa including Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Camberwell & Peckham has the largest West African diaspora in the UK and many people who are from the countries affected have family members there and some have business links and are concerned about the situation and arrangements in terms of travelling to the region. People are also worried about how this may affect plans for family members who want to visit the UK.

In July I wrote to the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, to ask what steps he had taken to brief the diaspora communities and keep them updated on the situation as it develops. I also wrote to the Development Secretary, Justine Greening, to step up the assistance the UK Government is providing to local healthcare providers in the countries affected to help them cope with the outbreak.

The Government’s response has been disappointing. In my letter, I asked the Foreign Secretary to convene an urgent meeting with the MPs representing diaspora communities. It took him 5 weeks to reply and he made no reference to a meeting. Justine Greening has still not replied.

You can read my article on Ebola for Southwark News on my website:
http://www.harrietharman.org/southwark-news-column-ebola-crisis---28082014

Newsflash!

Congrats to Peckham’s Johnson Situ on being appointed my deputy election agent for 2015

Casework Update Sept 2014:

Since my last report in July:

- Action on 645 cases
- Including 267 new cases
- 6 advice surgeries
- Attended by 202 people
- Average reply time: 9 working days

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