



# Harriet Harman QC MP

**MP for Camberwell & Peckham**

## Southwark Police 1000 Campaign

The latest figures show that there are now in Southwark 890 police, with 165 civilian staff and 36 Community Support Officers to back them up.

More police, especially patrolling the streets and estates, is one of the top demands people in my constituency make. So I set up the Southwark Police 1,000 campaign in 2002. 1,000 is the number of officers that the Southwark Police say they need to carry out all their duties. The campaign, which I chair, includes local councillors, Tessa Jowell MP and Simon Hughes MP, Val Shawcross, our GLA member, the Police Sector working parties and the Southwark Police Consultative Committee. We meet regularly to take stock of our progress and to work out next steps. So far we've put pressure on the Metropolitan Police Authority, the Mayor of London, the Metropolitan Commissioner, and the Home Secretary. And since the time the campaign started, we've got 115 more police. We're making progress, but still have a long way to go.



Harriet talks to two police officers in Camberwell

## A new Children's Centre for Peckham

It looks as though the new children's centre is on track for opening in mid 2006. When it's finished it will provide 24 much needed nursery places for babies, a parents' room, training room and a crèche. Most mothers now work, as well as caring for their children. Few have relatives living nearby who can help. So high quality, affordable childcare with flexible hours is really important – through nurseries and after-school clubs.

Whilst there will be new services for babies at the new children's centre, older children will be able to play, encouraged by youth workers at the new adventure playground that will soon be opening in Kelly Avenue. A constant complaint I hear is that there's not enough for young people to do, to keep them safe and out of trouble. So it will be a great step forward when the ugly barriers around the site come down and the playground is open.

## Wooddene - urgent action needed

It's right that the Council are going to pull down Wooddene to make way for better housing. And now most of the tenants have been found alternative homes. But the Council really must move swiftly to move out the remaining tenants and leaseholders. The estate is 80% empty and boarded up. It's nearly impossible for the police to make the residents left in the block and in the surrounding estate feel safe. The target date for the estate to be empty is summer 2007. Local residents are telling me that that is far, far too long. I'm backing them up by pressing the council to complete the "decant" and start the demolition much sooner.

# Harriet Harman MP Advice Surgeries

Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road,  
London SE5 8UB

Friday 7th Oct	10.00am
Friday 14th Oct	10.00am
Tuesday 25th Oct	6:00pm
Friday 4th Nov	10.00am
Friday 11th Nov	10.00am
Tuesday 22nd Nov	6.00pm
Friday 2nd Dec	10.00am
Friday 9th Dec	10:00am
Tuesday 13th Dec	6.00pm

I hold regular surgeries at the Town Hall. If you've got a problem you can come to see me. Or you can email me on [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk) or write to me at The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. There are about 60 people at every 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 - with problems on housing, benefits or immigration, but they also help me meet and keep in touch with the concerns of my constituents.

My House of Commons Action team - Dora Dixon-Fyle, Fiona Brenner and Charlotte Montague are well-known in Westminster as really dedicated and hard-working.



Harriet & team at an advice surgery in the Town Hall



Harriet visits Grosvenor Park Sheltered Housing Unit

## How "sheltered" is Southwark's Sheltered Housing?

Sheltered housing is mostly for elderly people who live on their own. They want to remain independent, but they are just a bit frail and sheltered housing means they can have their own little flat but supported by a warden service. The wardens not only keep an eye on the residents and help them sort out things such as hospital appointments, but many of them organise bingo, coffee mornings, fish and chip suppers and other social activities. In the summer sheltered housing residents can sit in peaceful communal gardens. There's always someone there to check who's coming in and out and to lock the front door if one of the residents leaves it open. Over the 20 years I've been an MP sheltered housing has always been really popular. As young couples move out of the borough, they are reassured that their elderly parent is in good hands. And over those years I've seen the average age of the residents increase and the level of frailty increase. So the people in sheltered housing now are more vulnerable than those who used to be in sheltered units. That's why I was concerned when, in April this year, the Council cut back the warden service so that the wardens are no longer there overnight. The Council are reviewing how this is working out. But I have had complaints from residents - and their families. The whole point of putting elderly residents together is to make them less vulnerable than they would be on their own. But that's only if they are properly looked after. I'm pressing the council to re-instate the overnight warden cover. It's just not the same to have an emergency alarm system routed through a call centre in Yorkshire. Sheltered Housing Units have flats which the duty warden can sleep in. It will give elderly residents, and their families, peace of mind if the wardens are on site again.