



### The Equality Bill

As the Minister for Women and Equality I am proud to be bringing forward the Equality Bill in Parliament this spring. Southwark is exactly the kind of place that will benefit from this Bill.

It will simplify and strengthen the law, promote equality, fight discrimination in all its forms - including age discrimination - and introduce transparency at work to tackle the pay gap which still exists between men and women.

To find out more about the Bill and what it will mean for you visit my website or call 0207 944 0601.

### Camberwell Baths win £1.4 million Government Funding

I strongly supported the local community's bid for Government money to refurbish Camberwell baths and I was pleased that the Minister for Sport, Gerry Sutcliffe MP, accepted my invitation to the baths on 21st January 2009 to see for himself what we need the money for and how the money would be spent.

I am delighted that the Minister for Sport has decided to grant £1.4 million to refurbish the baths - the full amount of money that the community asked for. I look forward to work starting as soon as possible.



*Harriet and the Minister for Sport with pupils from Lyndhurst Primary school on 21st January*

### Fighting for a New Window Policy for Leaseholders

The problem of window replacement and large heating charges are the most common reason leaseholders contact me for help - as well as not receiving a clear break down from Southwark Council of what they are being charged for. Many leaseholders tell me that they want to be responsible for installing and maintaining their own windows.

On 27th February I held a public meeting for Southwark Leaseholders. Many people came to tell me about their problems and discuss action. Representatives from Southwark Council and the Leasehold Advisory Service also attended.

I believe it is time Southwark Council changed its policy on window replacement and maintenance for leaseholders. I am pleased that the Council have agreed to work with me and the leaseholders to develop this new policy, as well as making leaseholders' bills clearer.



*Harriet and Southwark Leaseholders meeting on 27th February*

### Are you registered to Vote? European Elections are on 4th June 2009.

If you have not registered to vote or you are not sure if you are on the electoral register - there is still time. The last day to register is 19th May 2009. You can call Southwark Council on 0207 525 7373 or email [electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk)

## Campaigning for Better Services for Mental Health Patients in Southwark

I am determined to ensure that members of the public who used it are given what was promised when the Emergency Clinic at the Maudsley Hospital opposite King's College Hospital was closed in 2007 - a "safe and secure" space "adjacent" and "separate" to the A&E department in King's for patients with mental health emergencies.

On Friday, 27th February I met with the Chief Executive and staff of King's College Hospital, Southwark and Lambeth Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Southwark Mind, a local mental health charity, to discuss the plans of Southwark PCT to redevelop the Emergency Department at Kings Hospital.

Southwark PCT is currently consulting on the plans which show cubicles dotted around the emergency department and no separate and secure space. Southwark PCT confirmed in the meeting that they will "tear up the plans" if the results of the consultation show users are not happy.

I shall continue to campaign with neighbouring MPs (below) to ensure that this promise is kept.



### East London Line Given Go-Ahead

I am delighted that Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Transport, has agreed to the demand that I and other South London MPs made to give the go-ahead to the East London Line extension.

This means phase two of the East London Line will be constructed before 2012. The scheme will link Surrey Quays on the East London line extension to Clapham Junction, providing vital links through Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye and Queens Road Peckham.

### Case Work Update

I hold three advice surgeries a month and my team and I see the first 60 people at each surgery. My surgeries are held at Southwark Town Hall which is easy to get to and has disabled access.

Since the beginning of 2009 I have taken action on over 1000 cases.

Most people contact me asking for my help in resolving problems with their immigration status or difficulties with their housing situation. I also help people with a variety of other issues including benefit queries and health problems.

One recent case that I am dealing with concerns a Peckham lady. Her son aged 14 died in Jamaica 18 months ago when he was there to attend his grandmother's funeral. His mother is still having difficulty in paying the funeral debt of £3,000. She contacted me for help because a friend of hers told her about the work I do for my constituents.

I have already negotiated with the funeral director to reduce the bill by a third. I have contacted the travel insurance company, the funeral company and the Department for Work and Pensions on her behalf to help her further.

### Southwark Police 1000

Increased police numbers is one of the top demands my constituents have made over the years. 1,000 is the number of officers Southwark Police said they need to carry out their duties. In response, I launched the 'Southwark Police 1,000' campaign in 2002, which aimed to raise the number of police officers in Southwark to 1,000. In 2002 there were 775 officers in Southwark. I am delighted that this year Southwark Police numbers reached 1029 - but we still need more backed up by the police community support teams.

### How to Contact me:

If you have an issue you would like my help to resolve or are seeking some advice then you can contact me in several ways.

You can write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk), visit my website [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org) or come to my advice surgeries at Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5 8UB. The next surgery dates are:

**Friday 1st May at 9am**  
**Friday 8th May at 9am**  
**Friday 22nd May at 9am**  
**Friday 12th June at 9am**  
**Friday 19th June at 9am**  
**Tuesday 30th June at 5pm**