The officers of the Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party were elected at our AGM in November and I’d like to thank them for taking up their roles and for all the work they will be doing. In 2017, unlike last year, there will be no elections so it’s an opportunity to build our relationship with local people, support our Labour Council and discuss the way forward for the party in difficult times. I look forward to working with our officers and all members on this.

Happy New Year!

Labour’s National NHS Campaign Day

Now we’ve got a Tory government again, and as always happens with a Tory government, healthcare for local people suffers, waiting lists grow, it gets more difficult to see your GP, hospital services are stretched and health service staff are under more pressure.

As usual there were further cuts to the NHS in Philip Hammond’s Autumn Statement last month. The Chancellor didn’t even mention social care in his speech.

Alongside local Labour councillors Jamille Mohammed, Nick Dolezal & Jasmine Ali I joined local party members in Rye Lane to show our support for the #CareForTheNHS campaign. The aim was to highlight the Government’s failings on health and to talk to local people about how Labour intends to save the NHS. We talked to people about the concerns and issues that are affecting them locally.

You can read my recent article on the crisis in the NHS here.

Government Concede Labour’s Calls to Publish Brexit Plan before Article 50

For the last few months Labour have been pushing the Government to put their plan for Brexit before Parliament and the public. Without a plan people are suffering unnecessary uncertainty and worry, including the 3 million EU citizens living in the UK who have been given no assurance about their right to stay after Article 50 is triggered.

It is essential that the House of Commons and the British people have the chance to scrutinise the Government’s Brexit plan. After months of Labour pressure and parliamentary debates, the Government announced that they would publish their plan before they trigger Article 50 early next year.

The Government now need to focus on ensuring that they deliver the best possible Brexit deal, doing all they can to protect jobs, the economy, living standards and human rights.

Labour will hold them to account on this every step of the way. You can read my article on why Parliament must be consulted on Brexit here.

Business and Human Rights—Visit to Turkey

Almost 3 million Syrian refugees have fled Turkey, half of whom are under 18. Many work illegally in textiles, and UK businesses must ensure child labour is not found in any stage of their production. As part of the Joint Committee on Human Rights’ ongoing focus on business and human rights I visited Istanbul and Ankara with MPs Karen Buck and Amanda Solloway, and Baroness Doreen Lawrence.

We visited factories which manufacture clothes for UK brands Marks and Spencer, Next and Asos and met representatives from the Turkish Government, Turkish human rights committee, UK Foreign Office, and NGOs including Unicef, UNHCR, and the Women’s Coalition.

For further information about my work in the constituency please see my website www.harrietharman.org
Casework Update

In October & November:

- Action on 547 cases
- Including 363 new cases
- All replies within 10 working days

Southwark Police Visit to #WalktheMet

The run-up to Christmas and in particular the 15th and 16th December is the busiest period of the year for the police. Last week I visited police stations in Camberwell and Peckham to take part in their #WalktheMet campaign. I met Southwark Superintendent Liz Hughes to discuss knife crime, domestic violence and police numbers in Southwark, and joined Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, Sergeant Andy Sellings, PC Mark McKay and Cllr Kieron Williams to visit Jephson Street and the Samuel Lewis Trust Estate. Thanks to all at Southwark Police for the work they do.