



Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Monthly Report— December 2016/January 2017

Are parents in Camberwell and Peckham getting the choice of secondary school they want for their child?

Last year just 59% of parents in Southwark got their first preference secondary school, compared to the national average of 84.1%. That is the sixth lowest of all the local authorities in the country and means 1,157 children in Southwark were left without their first choice school. In comparison 98.7% of parents in Northumberland got their first preference.

This is a problem which only appears to be getting worse and school choice continues to be one of the biggest concerns that my constituents raise with me. Some schools are doing well in commanding the confidence of parents, but many are not. The Government is obsessed with restructuring the education system but is failing to ensure schools can command the confidence of parents in their local area.

This is not just a problem for parents in Southwark, but across London as a whole. Indeed the 10 lowest local authorities in the country are all London boroughs. The Government should widen Ofsted's terms of reference so that when they inspect schools they also hear the views of parents who don't want to send their child to the school.

Many of my constituents have contacted me concerned about the £3bn in cuts the Government is expecting schools to make by 2020. I've written to the Education Secretary to ask her to outline the actions the Government is taking to back up the work of local authorities to make sure every school is a good school that parents want to choose. You can read my [2016 school choice report in full here](#).

Southern Rail misery

People can't face another year of Southern Rail chaos like the last one. Throughout 2016 I was inundated with emails from constituents who are desperately worried about the disruption to their working & family lives and childcare arrangements.

Anyone who lives in Camberwell & Peckham will know that Southern's problems started well before the recent industrial action. Trains have been cancelled, late or dangerously overcrowded every week for the best part of two years, whether there are strikes scheduled or not.

Ministers should be sticking up for taxpayers and commuters, not a failing franchise. It is typical that the Government blames the unions, but that won't get people into work on time and I'm bitterly disappointed that the Government has refused to hand the franchise over to Transport for London.

Passengers can't continue to suffer like this. [I've urged the Government to strip Govia Thameslink of the franchise](#), written to the CEO of Govia and [I spoke in the Govia Thameslink Rail service debate in the House of Commons](#). [I've also asked the Government to meet the unions urgently before further strike action](#).

I will continue to work closely with Helen Hayes MP, Neil Coyle MP, Cllr Peter John & Florence Eshalomi AM to push for the transfer of Govia Thameslink Greater London services to TfL.

Campaign to reopen Camberwell Station



Camberwell & Peckham people have had a raw deal on transport services for years. On 16 January I met SE5 Forum & Helen Hayes MP to campaign to re-open Camberwell Station. This is important especially following the disappointment of the decision for the Bakerloo Line extension. I'm writing to the Transport Minister to demand a meeting to call for the re-opening of the station.

34 Years in Parliament

December 16, 2016 marked 34 years and 49 days since I was elected MP for Peckham - breaking the record for the longest continuous service as a woman MP in the House of Commons since women were first elected to the House of Commons in 1918. Since 1918, 455 women have been elected to the House of Commons. I was the 111th in 1982 and have been in the House of Commons with 368 of the other 454 women MPs at some point!



A Woman's Work

Published 2nd February

Ernest Kalawa

I am supporting the family of Ernest Kalawa who was tragically stabbed to death aged 24 on 30 December in Peckham. His mother, two sisters and brother are all grief stricken.

Parliamentary Questions

PQs are important for MPs to scrutinise Government's record & policy. This month I've asked PQs on aircraft noise, police diversity, knife crime, domestic violence, Sure Start centres & EU nationals' rights. You can view a full list of my written questions [here](#).

Camelot Primary School

On 16 January I met with James Robinson, Headteacher of Camelot Primary School. It's such an important community school but staff, pupils and parents have experienced a lot of turbulence over the last 18 months. I was glad to hear the school is making progress.



Campaigning in Brunswick Park

Thanks to Cllr Mark Williams and Cllr Ian Wingfield for campaigning in Brunswick Park Ward and to the local members that joined us.

it's vital that local people see Labour is out and about knocking on people's doors listening to their concerns.

Hope to see you next time!

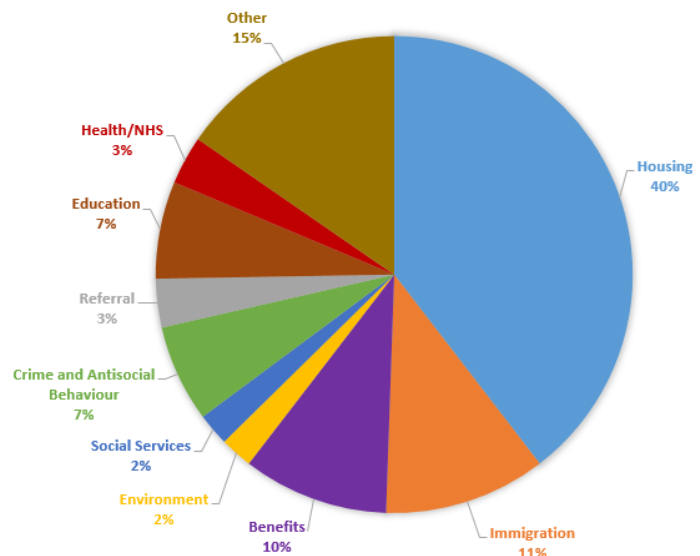


Casework Update

In December :

- Action on 241 cases
- All replied to within 11 working days

CASEWORK BREAKDOWN - DECEMBER 2016



#CarefortheNHS National Campaign Day—Saturday 21 January

Under the Tories the NHS is underfunded and understaffed. We will be using the 21 January to continue this important doorstep conversation about the Tories failing NHS and social care policies and Labour's alternative plan. We will be speaking to local residents in Faraday ward with our local campaign team.

Contact Lorin for details— lorintvbc@gmail.com

All volunteers welcomed, whether seasoned campaigners or first-timers - full training and support will be provided!

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