



Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Parliamentary Report— March/April 2017



General Election—8 June 2017

The Prime Minister has said she's going to ask Parliament for there to be a General Election on June 8th – breaking her promise that she would not call a snap election.

I will be standing as Labour candidate at the election. I remain wholly committed to our constituency and to Labour. Camberwell and Peckham is an active and campaigning party and we can expect to have a good, strong Labour majority. But there will be many constituencies that will need our help to deliver a good Labour vote. We have a great party and we have many great MPs and candidates. We have to fight for every vote.

Thanking King's College Hospital team following Westminster attack

On 5 April 2017 Helen Hayes MP and I visited the trauma team at King's College Hospital and Chief Executive Nick Moberley to thank them for their amazing care of those injured in the terrible attack in Westminster on 22nd March. King's treated 8 seriously injured patients. It was a privilege to meet and hear from the team who were on duty that day.

My staff team and I attended a Service of Hope in Westminster Abbey on 5 April 2017. 40 members of the King's staff team also attended the service. This was for people of all faiths to come together in commemoration of those who died and were injured in the attack, especially PC Keith Palmer who sadly lost his life protecting us. Everyone in Westminster and all around the country are so proud of the bravery Keith showed, so sad for his grieving family, but so grateful for what he did to keep us safe, and in the House of Commons I spoke to pay tribute to the police and parliamentary staff in Westminster who acted with such calmness and professionalism on 22 March.

This was a horrific crime, and it cost lives and caused injury, but as an act of terror it failed. It failed because the next day MPs were back in Parliament and Londoners were going about their business. And it failed because we are not going to allow this to be used as a pretext for division, hatred and Islamophobia. [You can read my full speech in Parliament on 23 March here.](#)



Opposing Tory Government Cuts to Southwark Schools



Following the packed meeting of Southwark parents at John Donne School on 9 March, Helen Hayes MP, Neil Coyle MP, Council Leader Peter John OBE and I met the Schools Minister Nick Gibbs MP on 22 March to protest about the devastating impact of the Government's school cuts on Southwark schools.

We do not agree it is right to cut funding for schools in Southwark by £1,000 per pupil in order to improve schools elsewhere in the country. These Tory cuts risk the great progress Southwark schools have made in the last decade, and it will be children who ultimately suffer. While I agree schools around the country need more money, it is ludicrous to suggest that our schools are overfunded and could manage with less, and somehow make cuts of £1,000 per pupil by just reducing their electricity and IT bills. Local headteachers have been clear to me that they will not be able to make the cuts from those efficiency measures alone. They fear they will be forced to cut teachers, support staff for SEN children and after school clubs, and are looking at their budget sheets wondering how they'll possibly maintain current standards.

I am working with parents, headteachers, Southwark Council, Helen Hayes MP and Neil Coyle MP to fight these cuts all the way, and I am supporting the Southwark Parents Against Cuts in Education (SPACE) campaign who have continued to put pressure on the Government—[find out how you can get involved here.](#)

Opposing the Southwark and Lambeth policing merger

On 28 March Florence Eshalomi AM and I met Southwark Borough Commander Simon Messenger to express our opposition to the Met's proposal to merge Southwark and Lambeth for policing, as part of a plan to reduce borough commanders in London from 32 to 12.

The working relationship that's built up between Southwark Borough Command and their team with the communities in Southwark and with the council is of great importance, and needs yet further work, not diluting across two boroughs.

Coordination between the two boroughs on issues like gang crime is important but this doesn't require a borough merger. This proposal is not driven by the needs of people living in Southwark, or the police, but by cuts. The Met is trying to save 15% of its annual budget through these changes, on top of the cuts of almost a quarter of police officers in Southwark since 2010.



Institute of Psychiatry - Women in Mind

On 21 March I took part in an "In Conversation" with Professor Ann McNeill at King's College London as part of the 'Women in Mind' series. The events are run by the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience and aim to engage people in debate and raise awareness of challenges to women's mental health.



St George's Primary School

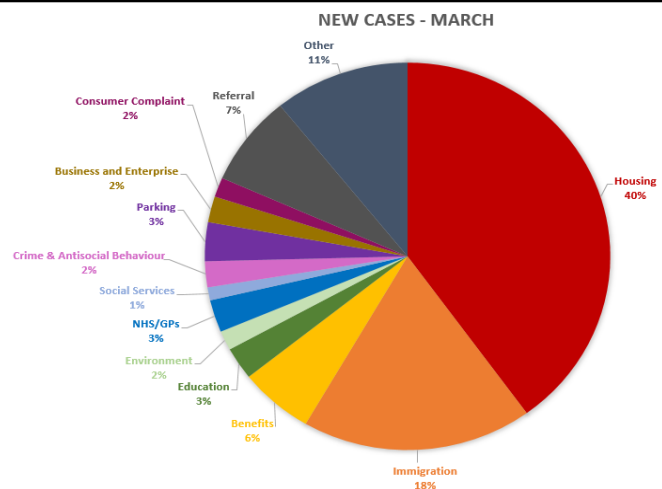
Great to meet parents, children and new Headteacher Stephen Scott at St George's Primary school on 28 March. He and his team are doing good work in taking the school forward but they have a very difficult job to do with the Tory cuts to per pupil funding of £875 from 2015-20. We'll be working together to oppose the Government's school cuts.



March Casework :

Action on 380 cases:

- All replied to within 10 working days



Constituency Case Studies

A man renting his home from L&Q housing association in Peckham contacted me because his home had severe damp problems which were causing him breathing difficulties. I wrote to L&Q to request repairs be carried out and rehousing be considered. I've now had confirmation he's being moved into a new property.

A disabled woman living in Livesey ward contacted me because she was no longer able to look after her blind mother who suffers from dementia. I wrote to the council to request more support for them and they have arranged alternative sheltered accommodation within the borough for my constituent's mother.

A Thai woman who became a British citizen when she married in 2015 had been refused a UK passport because her citizenship certificate was in her married name, and her Thai passport was in her maiden name. I wrote to HM Passport Office on her behalf and she has now received her UK passport in the post.

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