



In 2018 my constituency priority is the NHS

Defending local mental health services from Government cuts

1 in 4 people will suffer a mental illness at some stage in their lives. We all know someone who has gone through depression or anxiety and many constituents who come to ask for my help have problems which are made worse by a mental illness they or a family member are suffering. If you have a physical illness like cancer or a broken leg the NHS lays down time limits within which you must be treated. But there is no such time limit if you're depressed or anxious and it can be 6 months before your first appointment with a mental health specialist. The Government says the same priority is given to mental health services but this is not happening. The South London and Maudsley (SLaM) in Camberwell is the largest provider of mental health services in the UK. On 14th March I met the Chief Executive, Dr Matthew Patrick. Their dedicated team are doing pioneering work to prevent children and adults reaching crisis point. But Tory cuts since 2010 have left the Trust with 112 fewer mental health nurses and a 23% staff shortage, with over 1,000 vacancies. He told me the Maudsley should operate at no more than 85% bed occupancy but they are at 100% bed occupancy because Government cuts to local councils, social care services and King's College Hospital have left patients without the right support in place to be able to be discharged in a timely way. So patients are remaining in the Maudsley when they no longer need it for their mental health, using up a bed someone else desperately needs. These cuts cause more distress to patients and end up costing the taxpayer more because people end up in crisis. The team are working hard to improve services but they cannot improve without money. I'm calling on the Government to give SLAM the resources they need to protect patient care and backing Labour's call for the Government to ring-fence mental health budgets.



Maudsley cleaning & catering team deserve fair contracts

On 12th March I met 30 members of the cleaning & catering team at the Maudsley Hospital with their GMB Union representative, Nadine Houghton, to discuss concerns about their contracts. Many of them have worked at the hospital for a long time, some for more than 10 years. They are incredibly dedicated to their work and very much part of the hospital team providing vital care to some of south London's most vulnerable people. But despite this staff told me:

- People doing the same jobs on the same wards are receiving different hourly wages and contracts.
- Some staff do not get London weighting applied to their hourly wages.
- Some staff are not entitled to any paid sick leave.
- They can be penalised 15 minutes' pay for arriving at work one minute late.



All of the team were clear with me that they love their jobs because they are supporting vulnerable patients, but they justifiably feel that the contracts they are given by ISS are not fair and equal between workers. I wrote to ISS and they have agreed to a meeting to discuss these concerns.

Joining the campaign to save Dulwich Hamlet FC

On 5th March Meadow Residential LLP terminated Dulwich Hamlet Football Club's licence to play at Champion Hill, its home ground since 1931, with immediate effect. Dulwich Hamlet FC is so important to fans and the local community and I'm very concerned about the current stalemate which is threatening its existence. [On 8th March Helen Hayes MP and I wrote to the Minister for Sport, Tracey Crouch MP](#), asking her to support the club and restart negotiations. This situation cannot continue without damaging the local community, and the situation has much wider implications for the future of non-league clubs across the country. I will continue to work with Southwark Council, Helen Hayes MP, Tom Watson MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Lord Roy Kennedy of Southwark to secure the future of the club.



Welsh Labour Women's Conference

Great atmosphere and sense of enthusiasm amongst the women at Welsh Labour Women's Conference on 10th March. The room was packed full of Assembly Members, MPs, councillors, members and trade unionists, all determined to take action on childcare, unequal pay and domestic violence.



International Women's Day

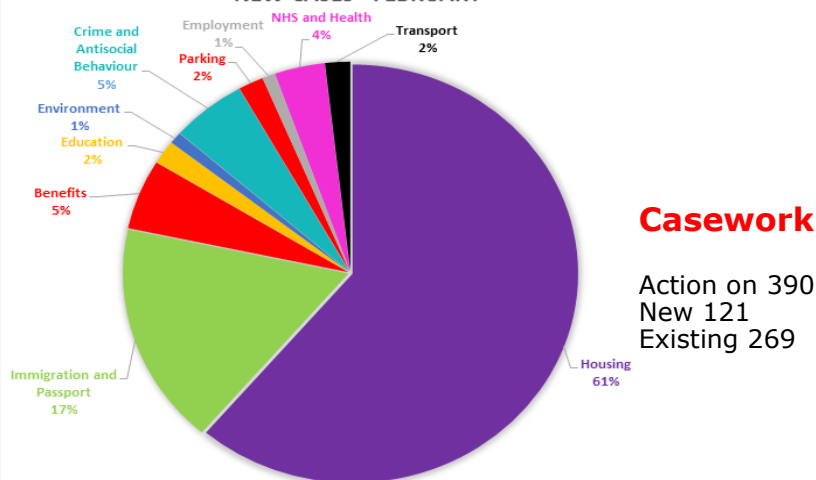


All power to Southwark Women's Network - wonderful morning celebrating IWD18 and the achievements of women in local government with staff and councillors at the Town Hall on 8th March. 44% of Southwark representatives

are women!

We still need to make progress but the House of Commons has changed for the better in the 35 years I've been an MP. On 6th March I was honoured to give the annual Speaker's Advisory Committee International Women's Day lecture—you can read it [here](#).

NEW CASES - FEBRUARY



Casework

Action on 390
New 121
Existing 269

Policy issues update

In February 406 Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues. The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Asking me to back the Refugee Family Reunification Bill. I am pleased that this has passed to the next stage in the Commons and I will continue to support it.
2. Calling for an end to Israel's military detention of Palestinian children. Read Labour's position [here](#).
3. Calling for Parliamentary scrutiny of the UK's new trade deals post-Brexit. Labour have tabled amendments to the Trade Bill to ensure this.

You can find out more on the '[Policy Issues](#)' & [Letters to Ministers](#) pages on my website.

Helping constituents with their problems

A mother of a disabled ten year old boy from Camberwell, who attends a specialist school for the blind contacted me because her son is happy and thriving in his current school but Southwark Council's Education, Health, Care Plan (EHCP) has concluded that he will have to change schools in September 2018 and have turned down her appeals on his behalf. I have been contacted by a number of parents distressed by the placement of their child with special educational needs and I am seeking a meeting with David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services for Southwark Council.

I was contacted by a father from Walworth whose daughter's mental health deteriorated as a result of being evicted and placed in temporary accommodation outside of Southwark she can not afford. He strongly feels she should be housed near her family, her children's school and local mental health services because of the severity of her bipolar disorder. I wrote to Southwark Council to ask for a review of how her case was dealt with when she initially presented as homeless and if she can be rehoused near her family.

A man from Peckham contacted me because he needs a kidney transplant but and his sister who is a suitable donor, and who lives in Somalia has been refused a visa to come to the UK. I am following up with the Home Office to decide the application quickly because of his poor health.



A man originally from India and now living in Camberwell contacted me because he submitted an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain two years ago but has yet to hear from the Home Office. I wrote to the Home Office to chase progress of his application and he has now been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain with his wife allowed to remain in the UK as his spouse.

Contact
Harriet

Post
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Email
harmanh@parliament.uk
Online
www.harrietharman.org

Phone
0207 219
4218



@HarrietHarman

