



### In 2018 my constituency priority is the NHS

#### Remembering Dame Tessa Jowell, former Southwark MP

We were all deeply saddened by the news that Tessa Jowell, former MP to our neighbours in Dulwich and West Norwood, Minister and Peer has died aged just 70, from a brain tumour. Her death is a great loss, above all of course to her devoted family, particularly David and her children Jess and Matthew and our thoughts are with them. "The personal is political" - that old Women's Movement saying - was what Tessa was all about. Her focus on her children and step-children was the impetus for her putting parenting support at the heart of the Labour Government's Sure Start Children's Centres. Her way of judging eldercare services, when she worked in Birmingham Social Services, was simple - "either it's good enough for my mother or it's not good enough for anyone". She looked at public services from the point of view of the user and their family rather than the organisation providing them. Though commonplace now, that was innovative then. She nurtured personal relationships to build support for projects she wanted to see happen - like the London Olympics 2012. Her politics was personal. And because everything she said or did was intertwined with the personal, she was more effective. She didn't follow the political rules of the day. She followed her personal instinct. But she was no softie. She was clever and tough. As MP neighbours for 23 years we worked on numerous campaigns



together. Whenever we met local agencies such as, hospitals, schools, the Benefits Agency or the council she was unfailingly warm and courteous. But if they were misleading, uncaring or obfuscating she would be tougher than anyone - and forensic with it. She was a champion of the people in Dulwich and West Norwood she represented. But above all - for her constituents and for the country - she wanted to see Labour in government. And when we were, in 1997 she took her unique style



and deep personal commitment into the heart of Whitehall. People will always remember her in Southwark. But also, when people remember the big figures in Labour 97-2010 Tessa will be one of them.

#### Tragic fatal shooting of local 17 year old Rhyheim Barton

You will have heard the tragic news that on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 just after 6pm, 17 year old Rhyheim Ainsworth Barton was shot on Cooks Road and later died. Rhyheim lived with his mother and younger sister on the Brandon Estate. He hoped to be an architect and was a keen rapper. This is such a tragic loss of a young life. Rhyheim was the 12<sup>th</sup> teenager to be killed in London this year. No parent should have to worry about their child being safe in their local area and the police are doing everything they can to identify the perpetrators of this terrible crime and bring them to justice. I went to pay my respects to Rhyheim's devastated mother on Monday and on Tuesday I convened a community briefing on the Brandon Estate. It was attended by Rhyheim's mother, local residents; TRA Chair, Sheila Benjamin; Southwark Police; Southwark Council Leader, Cllr Peter John; Rhyheim's local MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, Neil Coyle; David Lammy, MP for Tottenham, who is playing a leading role in tackling youth crime in Parliament; the local councillors for Camberwell Green and for Newington wards and Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London. We are working closely together to demand extra resources from the Government for the police and community groups and to help prevent any more young people losing their lives to violence.



*If you think you saw or heard anything that could help the police with their investigation please let the police know. Any information you provide could help bring the killers to justice and prevent other families going through the pain that Rhyheim's mother is enduring. If you do not want to contact the police directly you can pass information completely anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If there are any issues you would like to raise with me please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

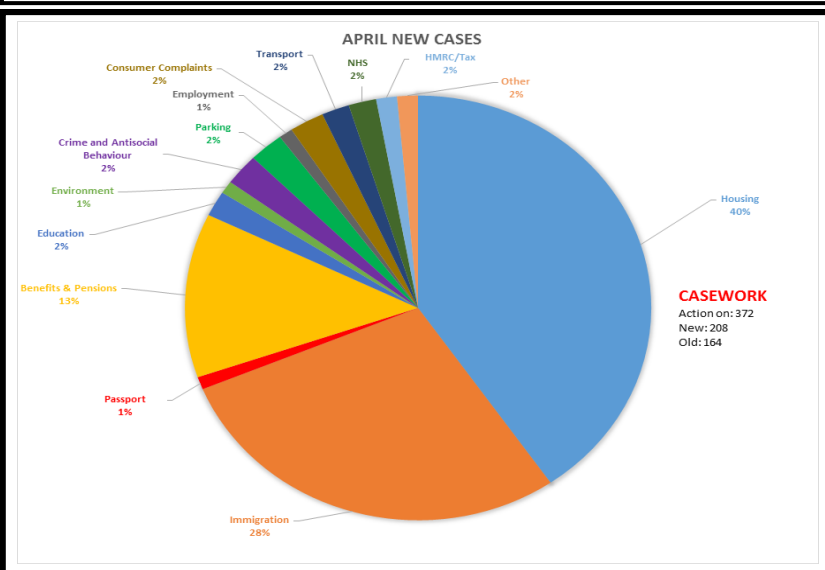
#### Great night for Southwark Labour in the local council elections!

After the local elections on 3 May, Labour have gone from 47 councillors to 49 and increased our majority from 33 to 38. And for the first time in Southwark's history there are no Conservative councillors in the borough.

Many congratulations to all the re-elected and newly elected councillors and to Cllr Peter John OBE who has been re-elected as Leader of the Council. I look forward to working with you all.

## Action for the Windrush Generation

A house in Herne Hill proudly bears a blue plaque commemorating Sam King, a freeman of the borough, the first black Mayor of Southwark, longstanding councillor & outstanding member of the local community. Originally from Jamaica he came to this country on the Empire Windrush in 1948 and raised his 2 children and 3 grandchildren here. Sam exemplified that generation of patriotic British people from the Caribbean who came here to help us rebuild after WW2. In recognition of that, they had a right to stay indefinitely as British citizens. So everyone has been dismayed and outraged at what has been done to them. Having worked here, paid their taxes and raised families here over the decades, they were swept up in the net supposedly designed for illegal immigrants. The Government's "hostile environment" challenged them to produce pages and pages of documentation from years gone by. Those who couldn't produce this documentation were denied their pensions, NHS treatment and benefits. Many were evicted by landlords as illegal immigrants and employers sacked them from work and more than 60 were detained. And this has hit people from the Windrush Generation living in Southwark. Like the man who came from Jamaica at 19, served in the British Army for 12 years, brought up 3 children, but after living here for 50 years was told he could not have a passport unless he paid a fee and 'became a British citizen'. The point is he already was a British citizen. I've protested on his behalf and am pressing the Home Secretary for a quick response. Despite the fact that it's been months since this scandal was first exposed by campaigners such as Tottenham MP David Lammy, Shadow Home Secretary, Diane Abbott MP and Amelia Gentleman of the Guardian, the Government still haven't dealt with this mistake. As Chair of Parliament's Select Committee on Human Rights I have brought 2 of the Windrush Generation to the House of Commons to give evidence about what it was like to be locked up when they had done nothing wrong and weren't charged with any offence. I've summoned new Home Secretary, Sajid Javid MP, to come and give evidence on 6 June and explain why these law-abiding British people were threatened by the Government and in some cases locked up. We are calling on the Government to immediately and fully compensate people for their financial loss and emotional distress. This has been a shameful episode and one which should cause a rethink about how the immigration system, whilst clearly maintaining firm borders, must respect and uphold human rights.



## Policy issues update

In April 530 Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues. The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Call on the Government to stop Windrush people being targeted. I will continue to do this and all I can to protect the Windrush Generation.
2. Support a political solution to the terrible conflict in Syria. Labour are urging the UK Government to play a leading role internationally.
3. Oppose government plans to restrict whiplash victims' ability to take compensation claims. Labour are seeking to amend this.

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

## Helping constituents with their problems

A father from Peckham living in a one-bedroom flat with his wife and their three children contacted me because his council flat is too small for his family and they have no chance of moving to a larger flat in band 4 on the council's housing register. Not only are they chronically overcrowded but they have been experiencing such awful Islamophobic abuse from their neighbour that his wife and children are too scared to stay at home while he is at work. I wrote to Southwark Council asking that my constituent's banding is upgraded to improve their chances of a successful bid and that the abuse be investigated. I am awaiting a response.

A woman from Peckham came to see me wanting to move out of Southwark permanently for her family's safety because her teenage daughter has been exploited by local gangs and she fears for her life if she remains in Peckham.

A pensioner contacted me because she has had to sleep in her living room for over 6 years and bathe in a small sink in her downstairs toilet because she cannot climb up to the first floor of her family home, due to health problems. She's waiting for the council to adapt the home she shares with her husband and disabled adult son. I have asked Southwark Council to speed up the process of adapting their constituent's home.

A Nunhead resident contacted me because though her husband's appeal for a visa to come here from Nigeria had been allowed by the Tribunal, 4 months on the Home Office had yet to issue the visa. I wrote to UK Visas and Immigration on the same day to ask that my constituent's husband's visa be issued without delay. This family have now been reunited and are living happily in Nunhead.



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