



In 2019 my constituency priority is the NHS

Defending people with autism and their families

We regard ourselves as a society which respects human rights. But the brutal truth is that we are failing to protect some of our most vulnerable children and young people - those with autism and learning disabilities. The recent Panorama programme showing the taunting and abuse of young patients detained in Whorlton Hall hospital exposed this horrific reality. As Chair of Parliament's Human Rights Committee I [summoned the regulator, the Care Quality Commission, to Parliament to answer why they had suppressed a critical inspection report](#) which found bullying and abuse at Whorlton Hall as long ago as 2015. They then published a report certifying it as "good". A regulator who rates as "good" an institution which is abusing vulnerable people is worse than no regulator at all. In doing so they shield abusers and fail to protect people. The CQC is no safeguard of human rights & these institutions need to be shut down.

Visiting people with autism at Maudsley Hospital

People with autism and their families should get the support they need not face cuts. They need to be listened to not ignored. They need the opportunity to get jobs that suit them, not be forced into unsuitable jobs and repeatedly sacked. Thanks to service users, staff and Dr John Cheetham, at the Maudsley for meeting with me. I've written to the Minister for Disabled People, Justin Tomlinson & Southwark Council to raise their concerns.



Inspiring morning opening new Cherry Garden School building with children, dedicated staff, families! Thanks to Southwark Council for this wonderful new building and for their support for children with autism.

Another tragedy of a young man's life lost

Tragically on 5th June, 18 year old McCaulay Urugbezi-Edwards was fatally stabbed near Tiverton Street, SE1. I visited his father with Florence Eshalomi AM & Cllr Evelyn Akoto to express my condolences and we are helping the family with rehousing and support for the daughter at school. The Government must urgently restore police numbers.

Backing Southwark Pensioners

Great spirit at the packed Southwark Pensioners AGM & summer party. Lots of issues for older people in Southwark including government cuts to vital services, problems with services moving online & means-testing over 75s TV licences, which I'm opposing. [Read my South London Press article.](#)



Peckham Palms is open!

Great to visit [Peckham Palms](#) with Cllr Peter John, Cllr Johnson Situ, Cllr Jasmine Ali & Flo Eshalomi AM. This new afrocentric retail space offers stunning hairstyling, buzzing café & great vibe!



More difficulties as King's faces cuts

I'm very disappointed King's have been rated 'requires improvement'. Dedicated staff work hard to provide excellent care but government must work with new leadership and give them the funding they need. You can't improve a hospital by cutting it to the bone. I discussed patient care with King's new Chief Executive, Dr Clive Kay.



Speaking at Parliament's Women's Caucus

It is a democratic imperative to have women in Parliament. As a woman MP you shouldn't have to face threats and not be able to do an open surgery because it's too dangerous. The Human Rights Committee, which I chair, will report shortly with strong proposals to protect free speech & ensure MP safety.



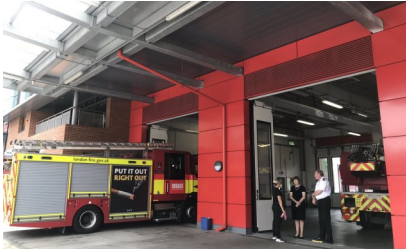
European Elections - 23rd May

The Liberal Democrats won the majority of the vote in Southwark in the elections to the European Parliament, pushing Labour into second place, with the Greens coming in third & the Brexit Party in fourth.



Improving Fire Safety

2 years on from the Grenfell tragedy I discussed fire hazards including cladding & hoarding, security grills & lack of sprinklers with Fire Commander Neil Chisholm at Old Kent Road Station. 3rd July marks 10 years since the tragic loss of 6 lives in the Lakanal House fire.



Cambridge CLP comes to Westminster!

Great to welcome Cambridge Labour members to Parliament. All backing terrific work of Daniel Zeichner MP and striving for a Labour government!



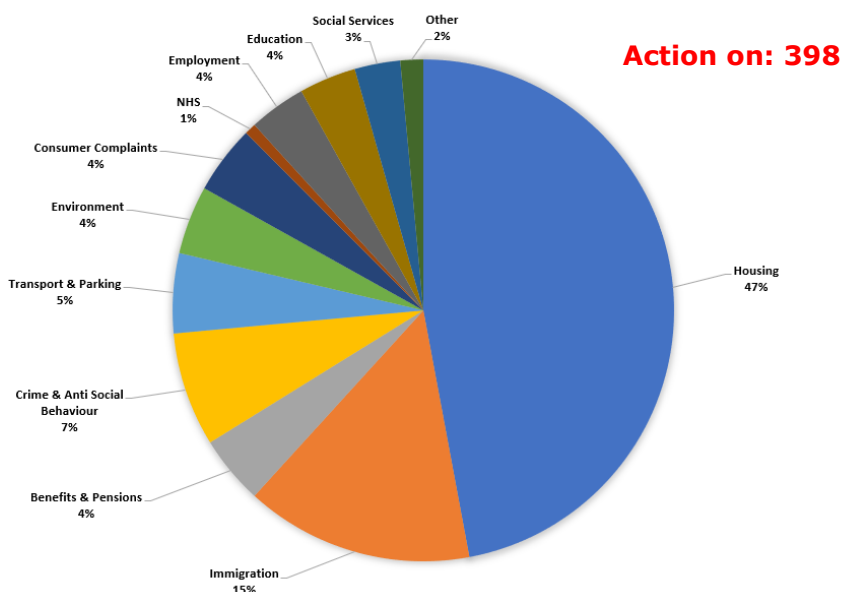
Happy 30th Birthday Pecan!

Great to visit the Pecan team in their Peckham HQ & visit their new Peckham Pantry facility in St Luke's. Thanks for all they do to help local people in crisis with benefits, housing and food. Invaluable, but sad it's necessary!



Universal free childcare is the missing part of the welfare state - [Read my Southwark News column here](#)

MAY 2019 NEW CASE BREAKDOWN



Policy issues update

In May 759 Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues. The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Back a second referendum on Brexit. I am backing a public vote on any Brexit deal.
2. Give abortion rights to women in Northern Ireland. I together with other MPs am demanding this.
3. Protect our rivers from plastic pollution. I'm backing the campaign to end single use plastics.

Read more about my position on policy issues & letters to Ministers on my [website](#).

Helping constituents with their problems

A Camberwell man contacted me because there was a delay in his Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check which meant he was unable to start his new job in the NHS. I wrote to the DBS and shortly after he got his certificate and was able to start work.

A disabled woman living in Walworth suffering with fibromyalgia, a long-term condition that causes pain all over her body, contacted me because she needed a bath installed in her home to help manage her pain. I wrote to Southwark Council and they agreed to fit a bath in her property.

A Camberwell woman contacted me because her daughter with autism had been refused a blue badge which she believed was unfair. I contacted Southwark Council and her blue badge application was approved.

A woman living in Nunhead contacted me because she was unable to work while her application for Leave to Remain in the UK was being processed and she was struggling to support her family. I wrote to the Home Office to ask them to expedite her application and they did.

A single mother living with her autistic child in a 1 bedroom Wandle property contacted me as she was being moved out while repairs were being done. She was moved into a 2 bedroom property and didn't want to return to a 1 bed. She says a permanent 2 bedroom home with a garden would assist her daughter's development. I contacted Wandle to ask for her to be permanently rehoused in a suitable property and they agreed to do so. She moved into her new home 3 weeks ago.



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