



Helping people in Peckham

People from Peckham seek my help for many different reasons including housing problems, immigration and visa problems and getting the benefits they're entitled to. Often I am able to cut through red tape, challenge an injustice and make progress for them. Since June 2017 I have helped **399** Peckham residents for the first time. Here are some examples:



I took up the case of a disabled leaseholder that lives off Southampton Way who was due to lose her home as she owed £4,335,80 in unpaid service charge. The DWP had made an error when migrating her from Incapacity Benefit to ESA in 2014, which meant she did not receive the financial assistance she was eligible for. She has now received a back-payment of £13,783.79 from the DWP and will get £100 more each week.

I met with a man with renal failure whose hopes of receiving a kidney from his sister were hampered because she was refused a visa to come here from Somalia. I asked the Minister of State for Immigration to review the decision to refuse his sister's entry clearance. Her visa has now been issued.

A Bangladeshi man contacted me as his wife had applied to join him here and was granted entry clearance until 2021 but she could not travel abroad due to delays in UKVI issuing her Biometric Residence Permit. I made enquires with UKVI and the BRP was issued and his wife has now joined him in Peckham.

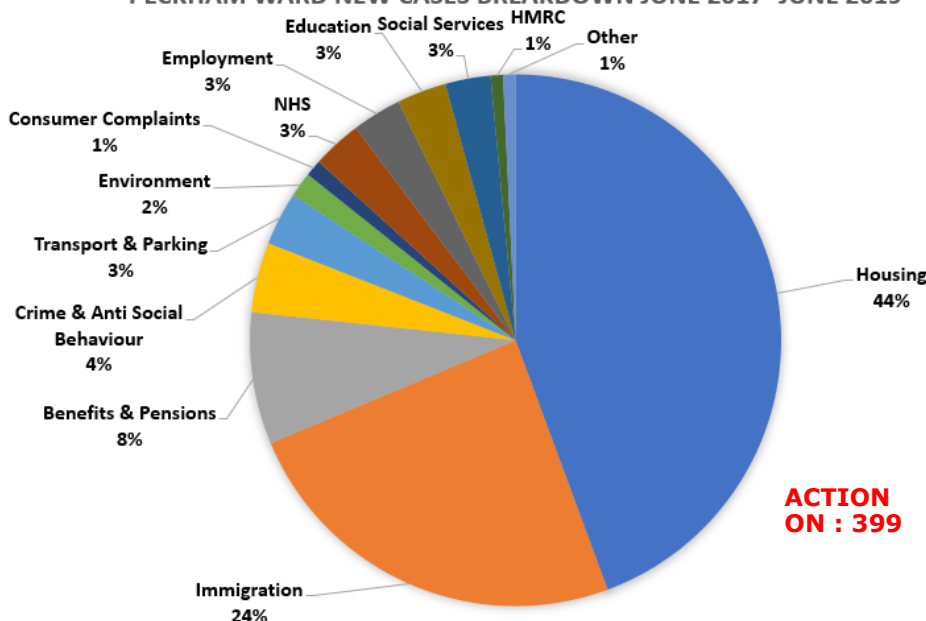


A Bells Garden Estate resident contacted me because she had had no hot water in her flat since she moved in a one month ago despite reporting this to the council. I made urgent enquires with the council and the problem was fixed the next day.

A woman suffering from cancer contacted me as she had recently been moved onto Universal Credit and her benefit entitlement had been reduced from approximately £1,200 to £700 per month and she was struggling to survive on this amount. Her rent alone is £800 pcm which meant she was accumulating rent arrears and that she had no money for food. I wrote to the DWP demanding an urgent review. They reassessed her claim and raised her monthly payment from £700 to £1,142.

A foster carer contacted me as he was having difficulty obtaining identity documents for his Portuguese foster daughters from their Embassy in time for their family holiday. I wrote to the Portuguese Ambassador to the UK. The ID cards were ready for collection the next day and they were able to catch their flight.

PECKHAM WARD NEW CASES BREAKDOWN JUNE 2017- JUNE 2019



ACTION ON : 399

A local doctor contacted me because she couldn't get the tax refund that she was due from HMRC. I contacted HMRC and they've now paid her £1500.



A disabled man with serious mental health issues contacted me because he was £280 worse off each month after being re-assessed by the DWP for Universal Credit. I took up his case urgently with the DWP and they have revised their decision and paid him £609 in back-payments.

A pensioner contacted me about the antisocial behaviour of people hanging out on the scaffolding erected on the site of a nearby redevelopment. I wrote to the council to ask if the building site could be made secure from trespassers and they have now fitted new alarms and blocked off the scaffolding. They also visited him to discuss his concerns.



Mrs A lives in a two-bedroom council flat with her 4 children and the overcrowded conditions are a challenge to her youngest, who has autism. She has been bidding on the council's housing register in band 3 for many years without success. I wrote to the council to ask them to act urgently and she is now in band 2 and the council have agreed that her autistic son should get his own room.

I took up the case of a father of three living in a one-bedroom council flat that was too small for his family but had little chance of moving to a larger place as he was in band 4 on the council's housing register. I wrote to the council asking for his banding to be upgraded to improve his family's chances of a successful bid on a larger home. He is now in band 3 and has been given a priority working star.

World Autism Awareness Week

While we've come a long way with public awareness, there's much to do to ensure that support for people with autism and their families fully meets their needs. We estimate 1,377 people in Camberwell and Peckham are autistic. Taking account of their families, this means autism is part of 5,508 people's daily life.

The government cutting Southwark Council's budget by almost half since 2010 means that they've had to cut the services they provide. Parents I met at Cherry Garden and Tuke Special Schools in Peckham this month told me how they struggle as the cuts hit them. It takes longer for their children to get the diagnosis they need. Which means a delay in getting support and help to families being cut. One mother told me that the weekly hours of help

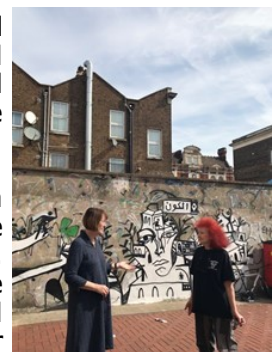


for her 12 year old child has been reduced from 24hrs to 16hrs. Tuke School no longer runs their invaluable after-school and summer holiday clubs that parents used to rely on.

Parents stoically battle for their children with autism and their other children, often struggling through complex systems without support. [I'm calling for parents to be fully included in the key decisions](#) about where their child goes to school and the care they get and for services to be properly funded.



The guardian of a severely autistic young man contacted me because the DWP suspended his Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claim because he did not supply a sick note. I urgently wrote to the DWP to ask why they had suspended his claim despite having clear evidence of his lifelong condition and that he is not able to work. The DWP reinstated his ESA and apologised for the distress caused.



A Moody Road resident contacted me because she had a leak in her bedroom which had not been repaired by the council despite her reporting the issue on several occasions. She also wanted her garden fence repaired. I wrote to the council and they replaced the fence, fixed the leak and compensated her for the damage to her belongings.

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