



In 2019 my constituency priority is the NHS

Prime Minister must get a grip on knife crime with cross-government response

All of us watching the news were outraged that after 5 people were murdered in just one week in London the Government refused the Met Police's request for extra money to tackle knife crime. On 10th March [every London Labour MP wrote to the Chancellor](#) to redouble our demands that the Government give the police the resources they need. This is a national crisis. [Labour are calling for an emergency committee](#) coordinated by No.10 to develop a clear vision for all parts of government, and actions for police, prevention programmes, youth centres, schools, councils and mental health services. It is time for Theresa May to step up and provide focus and leadership. I met Southwark Police Chief, Simon Messinger, to discuss the local response.

Grosvenor Estate Tenants & Residents Association Meeting



Following a stabbing involving 2 young people in February I visited Grosvenor Tenants and Residents Association for a meeting with local T&RA Chair, Chris Lacey, Camberwell Green Ward Cllr Kieron Williams & ward police officers, Charlotte and Shane, to renew action on the community's safety concerns.

Backing local nurseries

Great to meet teachers from Nell Gwynn & The Grove Nursery, and staff & very impressive pupils of Oliver Goldsmith Primary School at the [nursery funding lobby](#) in Parliament. Nurseries provide vital services especially for low-income children. I'm backing their demand that government ring-fence nursery funding. [#SaveOurNurseries](#)



Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich

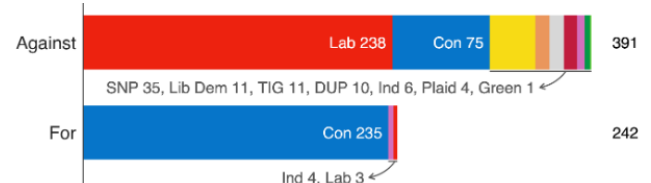
Thanks to Executive Principal Chris Everitt and Principal Peter Groves for giving Cllr Jasmine Ali, Cabinet Member for Schools, local Cllr Jon Hartley & I a tour of the school on 12th March. Good to see the Year 8 biology class learning about child birth and C-sections! I reiterated my offer to students to do work experience in my office.



Key Brexit Votes

Over the last 2 weeks there have been lots of important votes. I have voted:

-AGAINST the Prime Minister's Brexit deal, which was defeated by 149 votes.



-FOR the cross-party amendment to reject a no-deal Brexit under any circumstances. The Government voted against but we won by 4 votes.

-FOR the Official Labour Opposition amendment to extend article 50 and seek a new Brexit approach. This was lost by 16 votes.

-FOR the Hilary Benn amendment to allow MPs a series of votes on all the different options. The Government voted against this and it was defeated by 4 votes. Read more [here](#).

International Women's Day 2019

#IWD is the moment every year when we pat ourselves on the back for the progress we've made but also take stock of just how much further we still have to go. It was great to welcome Camberwell & Peckham Labour Women's Forum for a tour of Parliament to mark the day! Women are still change-makers and that is a battle. Things are much better in my generation than they were for my mother, and they're better for my daughter's generation, but we cannot rest. Read my #IWD2019 articles in [The Times](#) & [Harpers Bazaar](#).



Working with Southwark Council to support children with autism



I met David Quirke-Thornton, Director of Southwark Children's Services & Cllr Jasmine Ali, Cabinet Member for Children & Schools, to discuss their work to help families get the right school place for their child with autism. I will shortly be publishing my report on autism.

Tony Benn Memorial Lecture

I was honoured to give the Tony Benn Memorial Lecture. Brexit has caused instability and division in bucketfuls. But Parliament has discovered it can put its foot down when the Government treats it with disrespect. Brexit has strengthened parliament - and that is now something worth fighting to retain.

Read my speech [here](#) and my Politics Home article [here](#).



People are the experts to reducing poverty

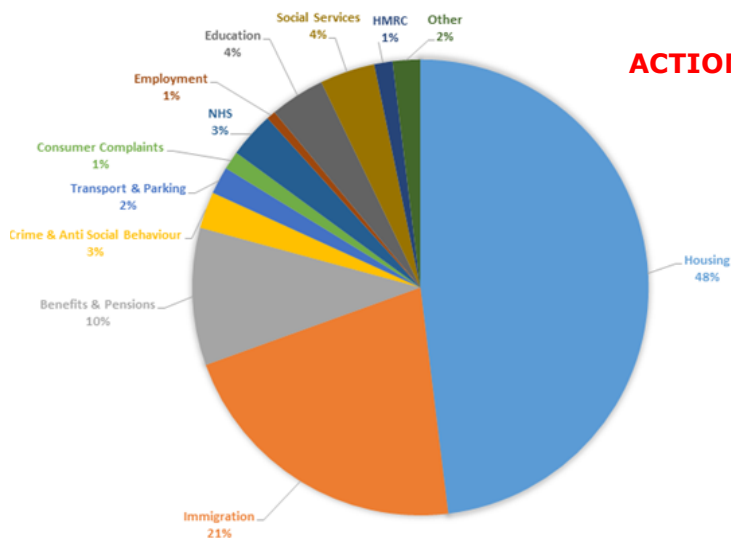
Great to welcome anti-poverty campaigners ATD Fourth World, Thrive Teeside & Joseph Rowntree Foundation to Parliament on 5th March. We agreed it's important to have people with lived experience of poverty at the heart of policy-making and we're urging the Government to implement [section 1 of the Equality Act](#) to tackle wealth inequality.



UK must not become weak link for human rights in treaties post-Brexit

The Human Rights Committee published [our report](#) into human rights and trade post-Brexit. We were concerned that [human rights are not part of the consideration](#) in new free trade deals currently being negotiated by the Government. The Human Rights Minister told us he didn't even know if human rights were in the newly signed Israel-UK trade deal! Rights should not be an 'add-on' to international trade agreements, but be embedded from the outset. We are demanding Parliament's Human Rights Committee remit is widened so we can check these agreements.

FEBRUARY 2019 NEW CASE BREAKDOWN



ACTION ON: 386

Policy issues update

In February **826** Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues. The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Vote against Theresa May's Brexit deal, rule out No Deal and extend Article 50.
2. Keep the NHS off the table in the UK's future trade deals.
3. Back targets for cutting the use and impacts of pesticides in farming.

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 the lease on his flat was due to expire and he could not afford to renew it. The flat had been in his family for 90 years and he was in fear of being made homeless. I contacted the freeholder, Southwark Council, and they've agreed he can stay in his home as a tenant.

A Peckham man from Bangladesh contacted me because his wife had been waiting for 6 months for her biometric residence permit (BRP) to be issued and it was preventing her from joining him in the UK. I made enquiries with UKVI and the BRP was issued 2 weeks later.

A Camberwell woman contacted me because her energy supplier, Economy Energy, ceased trading and she was having difficulty getting £600 credit on her account refunded. I wrote to the new supplier and they issued the £600 credit 14 days later.

An Old Kent Road pensioner contacted me because she had no heating or hot water for 3 days - for safety reasons her gas supply had been cut off. I wrote to the council to ask for urgent repairs and the boiler was fixed soon after.

A Rye Lane trader contacted me because Royal Bank of Scotland had mis-sold her [Interest Rate Hedging Products](#). I made an enquiry on her behalf and she was paid £31,030 in compensation.



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