

Putting Shields first



Emma's Winter News from South Shields

I hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is my winter edition newsletter which I hope you will enjoy reading.

The newsletter includes a range of visits I have been on within the constituency and what I have been up to in Westminster.

I look forward to hopefully meeting you soon.

Best wishes,

Emma

South Shields

The last couple of months have been exceptionally busy in the constituency and I have been involved in many events and campaigns across the town.

On 14 November 2014 I held my annual jobs fair. The event again this year was another big success with jobs on offer from companies such as Port of Tyne, Nexus, Blue Bird Care, Barclays Bank and South Tyneside Homes to name but a few. I would like to extend my thanks to South Tyneside College and Port of Tyne who supported the event. Feedback has been extremely positive from both employers and job seekers who see this event as being a showcase of current employment opportunities.

In December I was involved in "Destination Dean Road" an initiative to try and promote the shops in the Dean Road area as well as promote South Shields and the local economy at the same time. The event was a real success and I hope that this will be an annual event to try and boost our town as a destination.

The week before Christmas I also visited the Royal Mail sorting office at Kepple Street. I wanted to hear from staff how things were progressing after privatisation and to show my support to them at their busiest time of the year.

I have also supported our local firefighters and NHS staff in their campaigns to protect their pensions and pay. These frontline public servants have been badly let down by this Tory-led government and the proposed changes to pay, pensions and working age are not only detrimental to them but to the well-being and safety of the public.

As well as my fortnightly surgeries held at Ede House I am also running "meet your MP" sessions at venues across the town. This is an informal way to meet constituents, listen to their views and help with any problems they may be experiencing. The sessions have been a great success and have been held in both Asda and the Cleadon Park Primary Care Centre. I am hoping to expand the sessions throughout the town in the coming weeks.



Westminster

This winter we have seen how mismanagement and waste under David Cameron is taking its toll on our NHS and in Parliament MPs have been calling for action to deal with the A&E crisis. Labour has always protected our NHS, and that's why I and my colleagues voted for a Bill that will reverse the Coalition's reforms which are allowing the private sector to creep into the health service. Labour has also called for a £2.5 billion Time to Care Fund to help turn our NHS around and give Britain a health service fit for the 21st century.

In December the All-Party Inquiry into Food Poverty published its report which showed how low pay, benefit delays and sanctions are contributing to the growth of food banks in the UK. As a member of the inquiry team I took evidence from charities and food bank users across the country, including in Shields. Now the inquiry is taking its work forward by working with local retailers and charities to help put an end to food poverty in our communities.

I want to make sure this report makes a real difference in Shields and so I will be holding another local meeting in February to see what we can do to make sure no-one goes hungry in our town. I believe the only way to get rid of food poverty for good is to make sure people can earn a decent wage and that's why I have been standing up for low-paid workers in Parliament. I also co-sponsored a Labour Bill that would outlaw exploitative zero hours contracts as well as speaking in debates on how benefit delays and harsh sanctions are hitting the most vulnerable.

I was also proud to introduce a Bill on Funeral Services in December, to draw attention to the growing problem of funeral poverty. Over 100,000 people are living with funeral debts averaging £1,300, but the sensitivity of this subject means this problem doesn't get the attention it deserves. My Bill calls on the Government to reform the failing Funeral Payments system and review the cost of funerals, so that we can bring costs down and make sure everyone can afford a decent send-off for their loved ones.

Surgery Dates

6th February
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm

20th February
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm

6th March
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields,
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm

20th March
Ede House,
143 Westoe Road,
South Shields,
NE33 3PD
1pm-3pm

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