



Pauline Latham OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire

February 2014

Dear Constituent,

So, it’s back to Westminster after the Christmas period, and January has seemed to fly past!

Over the last few weeks, I have participated in a number of very interesting debates, including one about the work of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, in which I brought up the need to establish a vaccination programme for Meningitis B, which currently does not exist in the UK. Later on in January, I delivered a speech at a Westminster Hall Debate on strengthening couple relationships, in which I mentioned the problems faced by the Derbyshire branch of Relate as a result of funding cuts to voluntary services by Derbyshire County and Derby City Councils.

I have arranged a number of events in the constituency this month. Earlier last month, I met with local head teachers and East Midlands Ambulance Service to promote the installation of Automated External Defibrillators in schools. This comes after I was contacted by constituents, whose son had died as a result of a sudden cardiac arrest. Every week, 12 young people die in this way, and when an individual experiences a cardiac arrest, it is essential that they are administered a shock using an AED as soon as possible, as well as CPR continued until the ambulance arrives.

Another event that I organised this month was the visit of the Silver Star mobile diabetic clinic to Park Farm Shopping Centre in Allestree. It is important that everybody is aware of the signs and symptoms of diabetes, and that early diagnosis can prevent serious illness and complications.

I set up a meeting in which residents, local organisations and members of Transition Belper could put their concerns about the plans for Meadow’s Edge to the owner of the land, Tesco. It is important that the residents of Belper to engage with the process of deciding the town’s future, and as such, I am in the process of arranging another meeting for Tesco to report back on the progress they are making with selling the land.

I hope to have more exciting news to report back next month!



Meeting with East Midlands Ambulance Service

Recently, I began campaigning for more access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED’s) in schools, churches and other community centres. These are life-saving devices and are necessary to prevent people dying from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS) and other cardiac related problems.

Last year, I was contacted by constituents about their son who died from SADS. I was moved by their letter, and their wish that no parent should suffer the loss of a child, in this way.

Every week, 12 people a week die from SADS. Having a defibrillator on site means that the victim can be kept alive for the minutes it takes for an ambulance to arrive on the scene.

I am pushing access to defibrillators in schools and churches, and already know that Woodlands School and Belper School have them. I went to a meeting with East Midlands Ambulance Service and local headteachers to discuss cost effective ways of introducing these machines. There was a vigorous discussion and the teachers were all very supportive of the idea.

At £1,700, they are a sensible and worthwhile investment. Considering they are very low maintenance and can be used by people with no training. I am committed to pursuing this in parliament, and am looking forward to hearing reports of many more defibrillators being installed and people being trained in how to use them.

Meningitis Immunisation



I give a speech at a Westminster Hall Debate about Meningitis

On 8th January, I took part in a Westminster Hall debate about the work of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, in which I spoke about the need to establish a nationwide vaccination campaign against Meningitis.

Last year, constituents contacted me to tell me about the struggles their daughter, Isabelle, faced as a result of becoming a quadruple amputee after contracting Meningitis B. When I met Isabelle at the family home, I saw that she was an incredibly bubbly and very intelligent little girl, who has excelled in spite of the difficulties she has experienced.

At the request of her parents, I have made several representations, including in this month’s speech, to the Department of Health, to encourage them to acknowledge the need to eradicate Meningitis B. I have been encouraged by their response, and am confident that the Department is committed to fighting the disease. I am hopeful that the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation will soon approve the use of the new drug Bexsero in immunisation programmes, so no child has to go through what Isabelle went through again., and no parents have to make the decision to have their child’s limbs amputated to save their life.

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Meeting with Transition Belper

As many of you will know, after Tesco pulled out of building a megastore at Meadows Edge, the site on which the old Thornton’s factory used to stand, there was concern amongst the Belper community as to what would happen to the land.

I recently arranged for Tesco’s Corporate Affairs Manager, Adam Williams to come and speak to members of Transition Belper and the local community about who they intended to sell the site to and what plans they had discussed with the potential developer and Amber Valley Borough Council

I felt that the meeting was highly productive, and was pleased that Tesco seemed so open to suggestions from the people present about what they should do with Meadows Edge. Mr Williams informed us that Tesco had entered into discussions with Amber Valley Borough Council about selling land to them to build care homes and housing. Whilst this caused some disquiet in the audience, Tesco have agreed to look into this issue.

What concerned me about this meeting was the reluctance that Belper Town Council showed to creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) due to cost implications. NDPs give local residents and Town Councils the opportunity to have a say in the future of their town. An NDP is considered alongside the local council’s Strategic Development Plans, when the Council makes planning decisions. I have written to the Town Council to offer my



Save the date...

On Friday 14th March, I will be hosting a Jobs Fair at the University of Derby Enterprise Centre. The event will run from 10am-3pm, and is free to attend.

The event is non-profit making and is free for businesses to attend. There will be workshops offered throughout the day by the National Careers Service and the University’s Employment Hub. Advice will be available on CV writing, interview techniques as well as general careers information.

For sponsorship opportunities at the fair, please contact Sue Hilderley-Burton in my constituency office on 01332 676 679.



Silver Star Diabetic Clinic

Having read that Silver Star Diabetes run mobile Diabetes clinics in their newsletter, I thought it would be a good idea to invite them to Mid Derbyshire for the day.

On 18th January, the mobile clinic came to Park Farm Shopping Centre in Allestree, where it was greeted by a queue of people waiting for testing. At the end of the day, the clinic had tested 41 people. Of those who were tested, 3 people had high blood glucose., which can be an indication of Diabetes.

Type 2 Diabetes is on the rise in the UK, and it is important to seek medical advice as soon as symptoms arise to prevent the complications of the disease.



Funding for Karma Nirvana

In a meeting of the International Development Select Committee this month, I asked the Government to raise the issue of funding for the charity Karma Nirvana with the Ministry of Justice.

The Derby-based charity, which provides support for those experiencing so-called honour-based violence or forced marriage. It is the only charity in this country offering an urgent hotline for those affected by these two issues.

That is why I think it is incredibly important that the work that Karma Nirvana do continues, and it is to this end that I have contacted the Secretary of State for Justice, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP to ask that the charity’s funding arrangements be confirmed after September.

Meeting with Network Rail

Later on in January, I met with Liz Reedy of Network Rail about the issue of safety on the railways.

She spoke to me about making more children aware of the dangers of straying onto train tracks, as around 40 children every year die this way. Ms Reedy is looking to go into schools to discuss this issue with children, and I have of course offered my support to promote her campaign.



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UKIP FACTOID

In his 2013 Conference speech, Nigel Farage said that UKIP would support a universal tax rate of 11.5%. This could mean that those on a low income could be paying the same percentage of their wages in tax as millionaires!