

FAISAL RASHID MP

WARRINGTON SOUTH

Monthly Newsletter: June 2018



Working hard for all communities in Warrington South

Our community is our strength – Together we are stronger

Appleton | Bewsey & Whitecross | Chapelford & Old Hall | Grappenhall | Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall | Great Sankey South | Latchford East | Latchford West | Lymm North & Thelwall | Lymm South | Penketh & Cuardley | Stockton Heath



IN WESTMINSTER

Welcome to my June e-newsletter with news of some of my work in Westminster and in the Warrington South Constituency as your Labour MP.

For all the latest news on my work locally and in Parliament you can also visit my website, follow me on Twitter or add me on Facebook.

With very best wishes,

Faisal Rashid

Labour Member of Parliament for Warrington South

FIRST YEAR REVIEW

It is hard to believe that it has been over a year since my election as Labour's MP for Warrington South. The time has flown-by. It has been an honour to represent our constituency in Westminster and I have enjoyed every minute of my first year.

There have been so many memorable moments. Of course, finding out on election night that I would be representing Warrington South in Westminster was a night that I will never forget. And, taking my seat in Parliament and making my maiden speech were very special moments for me.

However, the most important part of being the Member of Parliament for Warrington South is not about the memorable moments, it is about what I am doing to help the people and communities I represent.

Every week I am lucky enough to have the opportunity to speak out in Westminster alongside our leader Jeremy Corbyn and my Labour colleagues on the issues that matter to our town. It is an honour I do not take for granted.

Together with my team, I have been working hard to tackle a variety of issues, which affect people across Warrington South. The issues are diverse and give a real snap shot of exactly how the Government's policies are really affecting people on the ground. This last year has been eye opening.

It is clear that many local people are finding life tough and are struggling to make ends meet. Witnessing this first hand has made me more determined than ever to ensure that I do whatever I can both locally and in Westminster to speak out for my constituents, to fight for Warrington South and to oppose the reckless and damaging policies of this Conservative Government.

I thought you might find it interesting to hear

some of the statistics from my first year in office. I have received over 7,000 emails from constituents, over 300 letters and over 5,500 telephone calls. Some contact us with a single issue, others on a variety of issues.

Throughout the year I have spoken out in Parliament on a number of key issues for our town – including on public sector pay, demanding action to resolve the social care crisis, calling for the Mersey Gateway tolls to be scrapped, speaking out on homelessness and opposing NHS privatisation. There are so many issues facing our town and I will continue to speak out on these in Westminster.

CHAPELFORD HEALTH CENTRE

I met with Health Minister Steve Brine in Westminster to discuss progress on Chapelford Health Centre. The meeting followed my question in the House of Commons about the shocking delays and failings that have beset the Chapelford Health Centre project.

Chapelford Health Centre was conceived around 20 years ago, ahead of the now developed Chapelford Urban Village. For more than 10 years the Chapelford Health Centre that serves this community has been operating out of a portacabin on a piece of waste ground while approval and funding for the permanent surgery on the reserved site had been sought.

I have been working with the Chapelford and Old Hall councillors to keep up the pressure at both a local and national level. I have taken the issue to right to the top of the NHS – raising concerns with the Chief Executive of NHS England, Sir Simon Stevens, and to Government, putting pressure on Health Ministers in Westminster to guarantee delivery of the new medical centre. Following my question in Parliament last month it was announced that capital funding for the site had been approved.

I held a productive meeting with the Health Minister revealed that there are only a few

hurdles remaining to overcome before construction of the health centre can begin and there are high hopes this will happen in the coming weeks. During the meeting the Health Minister committed to providing me with regular updates on the medical centre's progress.

Locally, I met with Warrington CCG to discuss the final issues.



CAPITA CONTRACT

I spoke in Parliament about how Capita was awarded a £500m contract to run UK military fire and rescue services despite it being rated a 10/10 risk which is, yet again, more evidence of the Tory Government being reckless with taxpayers' money and safety. The Tories have overseen a race to the bottom when it comes such firms' standards, while costs to British tax payers have skyrocketed.

PKU

I spoke on the importance of raising awareness of and providing treatment for PKU patients. Thanks to the hard work National Society for Phenylketonuria have put in to raise awareness of this devastating disease which affects around 3,000 people, I learnt of the complexities patients and their families face, especially as the fragmented nature of NHS services provided oftento confusion and mistakes in the chain.

I also took part in the PKU diet challenge where I spent the day having a restricted diet like who suffer from PKU. I learnt about how much of a daily struggle the diet is and how much of an impact it has on daily life.

The drug Kuvan has been developed which can treat up to 25% of PKU patients and allow them to eat substantially more natural proteins, which fundamentally improves their quality of life. Of course, Kuvan comes with a price tag, but as we celebrate the 70th birthday of our treasured NHS, we must allow it to uphold its fundamental principle of providing healthcare on the basis of need.



TRAINS

I joined activists and members to campaign against the #RailMayhem we are facing. I have been using all my Parliamentary resources available to keep pressurising Chris Grayling on doing more about this rail crisis which many of my constituents are facing. It is more than obvious that the Conservative Government is failing to stand up for millions of passengers. I believe that The Labour Party's policy to bring our railways into public ownership will result in capped fares, more reliable services and much-needed investment in our railways.



CLEAN AIR DAY

Clean Air Day 2018 focuses on the impact of poor air quality, which can have health implications. Clean Air Day highlights the current challenges and offers a chance to find out more about air pollution and what steps we can take to help make the air cleaner and healthier for everyone. Locally, I believe it is crucial that as a town we work together to see how we can make simple changes to improve air quality. In the coming months I will be working with local organisations on this issue.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

I met with the Managing Director of Northern to raise serious concerns about the problems of late. The service which has been provided since 20 May is completely unacceptable. The number of cancellations, especially at peak times, has caused many commuters in Warrington and across the north to be late for work and school. I am also aware that services were cancelled after the Neighbourhood Weekender which took place at Victoria Park over the weekend 26-27 May, leaving many festival-goers stranded. I am keeping up the pressure on Northern and the Government to tackle these failings.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

This year's theme was plastic pollution. I believe it is vital that we aim to eradicate plastic pollution, especially by reducing single-use plastic and locally I will be working to tackle this issue.



CARERS WEEK

This year's Carers Week was 11th - 17th June and focused on the theme of building communities that support the health and wellbeing of carers. Carers Week was an important time to acknowledge the issues that many carers face in our community. It is a good way to raise awareness of the challenges that unpaid carers face every day. Many unpaid family carers are finding that they have to fight to get the support they need for the person they care for, and for themselves. They should not have to battle for this help.

DIABETES WEEK

Diabetes Week took place from 11th - 17th June and this year it focused on the theme to talk about diabetes. Talking about diabetes isn't always easy, but a good conversation can be really useful. Diabetes is one of the most serious public health problems facing the UK today so it's important that we #TalkAboutDiabetes to raise awareness about the risk, and helping to take action in making it easier for people to make healthy choices every day. During this week I highlighted this campaign and I hoped it encouraged many others to talk about this issue.



STAND UP TO BULLYING

I have pledged to #StandUpToBullying and I am urging Warrington South residents to do the same. We must aim to create together a community which is kind and compassionate to one another, and courageous to #StandUpToBullying at all times. I welcome this this great campaign by Anti-Bullying Pro which encourages us all to do this.



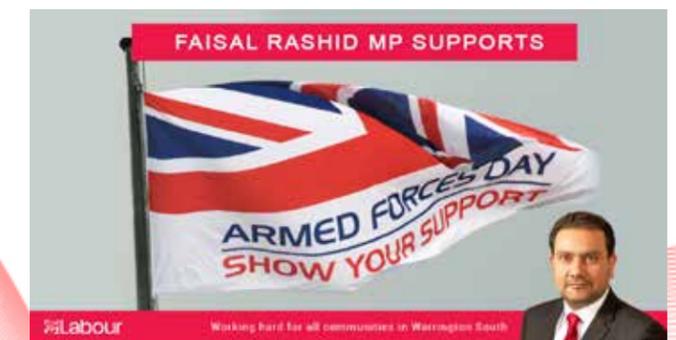
AGAINST PAVEMENT PARKING

I am supporting a great campaign by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (UK) which is highlighting the effects of pavement parking. I was deeply concerned to find that a survey showed that 97% of blind or partially sighted people encounter problems with street obstructions, and 90% of those had experienced trouble with a pavement parked car. I believe we must develop environments that enable people with disabilities to live independently, not in isolation.



ARMED FORCES DAY

I was proud to support Armed Forces Day and The Labour Party's call to put our Service personnel first. They are at the heart of our nation's defence and I believe that they must be at the centre of our defence policy.



IN WARRINGTON SOUTH



2018 ENGLISH HALF MARATHON

I will be taking part in this year's English Half Marathon event on Sunday 16th September. I will be running in the 10K race in memory of my mother who passed away earlier this year.

I will be raising money for local charities St Rocco's Hospice and Care UK. I am a patron for both charities and have been a trustee for St. Rocco's Hospice.

2018 will see the 10th Anniversary of the English Half Marathon, an event famous for its finish through Warrington's iconic Golden Gates. The popular weekend of events in Warrington culminates on the Sunday with 10K and half marathon races. A special fundraising page has been set up for the event.

To sponsor me please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/faisal-rashid-mp>

Recently, I visited St Rocco's Hospice to hear about the fantastic work they are doing. You can hear more about my visit here: <https://www.facebook.com/FaisalRashidMP/videos/829415297256657/>

St Rocco's Hospice is a well-known and well-respected charity based in Warrington South. One of their many services is providing end of life care for those with terminal or life-limiting conditions. I know just how important hospice support is when a loved one is nearing the end of their life. The care and support St Rocco's Hospice provides to patients and their families is brilliant. But they rely on community support to keep up their fantastic work. I hope my run will help highlight the work of the Hospice and raise money to help protect these crucial services.

Again, I encourage anyone who wants to get involved to sign up for the English Half Marathon and run with me, together as a team. It is a great opportunity to improve your fitness and I'm excited to see the changes in my health as I have begun to intensify my training. You can sign up here: <https://www.motivrunning.com/uk-english-halfmarathon/>

A big thank you to everyone who sponsors me. The money raised will go to the two very worthy local charities and it will make a big difference!

SUPPORT FOR CYCLING

I joined the fantastic initiative by Cllr Paul Warburton and North Cheshire Clarion Cycling Club at Dakota Park in Chapelford. This great initiative provided free cycle training for young riders, helping them to gain further skills and confidence when cycling. It was also great to host my roving surgery at the event as I was able to meet with many constituents to discuss both local issues as well as regional and national issues.



WARRINGTON ARMED FORCES DAY

I attended Warrington Armed Forces Day at Crosfields. It was a great day to see everyone gather together to collectively appreciate the hard work, dedication and efforts of the services of our armed forces.



WALKING DAY

Warrington Walking Day was excellent. It was great to see so many people from across the town enjoying the day. I share Reverend Paul Wilson's words on unity, solidarity, togetherness, compassion and peace, which I believe are all foundational to looking after each other, which is what it is and should be about.



SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN LYMM

It was great news that Lymm Cabinet 21 is now live and accepting orders for superfast broadband. I'm pleased to see this expansion of superfast broadband in my constituency as I have always fought for better speed since I was a councillor. I will continue to fight for 100% coverage in my constituency of high speed broadband.



As your local MP, if there are ever any issues I can help you with, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

I hold surgeries at my constituency office at 1 Wilson Patten Street every Friday. From 9.30am-11.30am I hold an open surgery, no appointment necessary, and then from 11.30am I hold surgeries by appointment.

To book an appointment:
Email: faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk
Call: 01925 657 600

I also hold regular roving street surgeries. For further information please call my office.

For up to date information about my work:
Visit my Facebook page at facebook.com/faisalrashidMP
Or my website at www.faisalrashid.com

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