

FAISAL RASHID MP

WARRINGTON SOUTH

Monthly Newsletter: September 2018



Working hard for all communities in Warrington South

Our community is our strength – Together we are stronger

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IN WESTMINSTER

Welcome to my September 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

LABOUR PARTY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

The 2018 Annual Conference took place in Liverpool from the morning of Sunday 23 September to Wednesday 26 September 2018. I have shared the core outcomes below.

Rebuilding Britain: Labour's plan and mission to rebuild our economy, our public services and our communities

- Too many parts of the country have been neglected after eight years of Tory austerity and decades of industrial neglect. Labour will put the investment into towns and communities to make them thrive once again.

- Labour will give people control, putting privatised utilities into public ownership. People have had enough of rip off energy and water companies, and expensive and crowded trains.

Rebuilding our economy: Labour has a plan to rebuild our economy so that it works in the interest of the many, not just handing out the rewards to those at the top

- Jobs are at risk because the Tories have spent more time arguing with themselves than negotiating with Europe. Labour would negotiate a Brexit deal that puts jobs and living standards first, with a new comprehensive UK-EU customs union and a new single market deal.

- Workers' real wages are still lower than where they were in 2010. Labour will introduce a Real Living Wage of £10 an hour by 2020 and will protect workers by guaranteeing no tax rises for 95 per cent of earners.

- Britain is the most unequal country in Europe. Labour will invest in every part of our country through a network of Regional De-

velopment Banks, so that we create good, secure jobs in every community.

Rebuilding our communities: Years of austerity and neglect have left our towns and communities hollowed out. Labour will rebuild our communities.

- Tory cuts to local communities have left older people without access to care, and young people without facilities and support.

- Under the Tories, home ownership has fallen and homelessness has doubled. Labour will invest in new affordable homes to rent and buy, building at least a million new homes, including 100,000 genuinely affordable homes to buy and rent a year.

- The Tories have cut 21,000 police officers, and crime is up—proving you can't keep people safe on the cheap. Labour will hire 10,000 extra police officers to keep people safe. Rebuilding our public services: Years of austerity and privatisation have left our public services in crisis. Labour will rebuild our public services with new investment and properly paid staff.

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- Labour will increase investment in the NHS and social care to tackle the crises caused by the Conservatives.

- Labour will stop the cuts to school budgets with a real terms increase in funding, introduce universal free school meals for primary school children and get class sizes down to under 30 for all 5, 6 and 7 year olds.

I believe these commitments show, as Jeremy Corbyn said during his speech, a Labour Party that's ready to take charge and start the work of rebuilding our divided country.

A RADICAL APPROACH TO TACKLE THE HOUSING CRISIS IS A NECESSITY

You may recall that I, and my Labour Party colleagues, have repeatedly called on the Government to act to solve this crisis. But it is clearer than ever that we are being ignored.

Last month, the Government published its long-awaited social housing green paper. In the wake of the devastating Grenfell Tower fire, Sajid Javid—then Communities Secretary—promised a green paper that would be 'the most substantial report of its kind for a generation'. What the Government have instead delivered is nothing short of an insult.

There is not a single extra penny committed to building new, affordable, homes, and ministers have been forced to admit that this paper will not lead to the construction of a single new affordable homes.

The long-awaited green paper is stuffed full of warm words that are devoid of any substance. There are 1.2 million people on the social housing waiting list in this country. They do not want warm words, they want warm homes that they can afford to live in.

And the situation is no different in Warrington. My caseworkers have been contacted by many individuals, and families, across my constituency who are struggling to find affordable housing.

To give this some context, during 2016/17 there were 1,100 families that bid for just 130 two-bedroomed properties through the Choose a home scheme. This is totally unacceptable. There must be more affordable homes available.

In response to the council's housing consultation earlier this year, I sought to secure a combined target of 30 per cent for all new homes which are built in the town to be affordable. But without central Government funding commitments, councils are severely restricted in what they can do to tackle this crisis.

The last Labour Government had a proud record in our area. Between 1997 and 2010, the

number of home-owning households increased by one million, almost two million homes were built, and in the final years of Government, Labour launched the biggest social and council house-building programme in a generation.

In Labour's own social housing green paper, published last April, we set out a long-term plan to build a million new genuinely affordable homes over 10 years. The biggest council house-building programme in more than 30 years.

A radical approach like this is no longer an option, it is a necessity. If we do not act now, this crisis will continue for generations.

Although the Prime Minister's recent announcement of a further £2bn to the housing budget was welcome, this cash injection would not be enough to reverse the impact of previous cuts to housing budgets.

The number of new social rented homes built last year fell to the lowest level since records began, due to the cuts to spending on new affordable homes.

The only true way to fix the housing crisis is to pursue Labour's plans to build a million affordable homes, including the biggest council housebuilding programme for over 30 years.

ARMED FORCES PARLIAMENTARY SCHEME

Every year I attend the Remembrance Day memorial at Bridge Foot to remember those who have served to protect this country. This is something which is very close to my heart and without the sacrifices made many of us would not be here today.

This year I made the decision to join the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (AFPS), a privately-run scheme which exists to increase awareness for MP's like myself, to the role of the Armed Forces. This is split in to three sub divisions; The British Army, The Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy.

This week I have spent two days at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom at

Shrivenham.

Personally, I am supportive of the crucial role that the Armed Forces play in protecting our country; and with politics completely set aside, I support any individuals who choose to join and serve. The choice is very personal to those individuals and I believe in making their choice, they are doing this in the best interests of protecting our country, families, friends and loved ones.

I believe it is a very altruistic decision, one which comes with great responsibility and great risk; sometimes being deployed abroad to help people in areas of conflict, or provide lifesaving aid and assistance to areas affected by natural disasters.

What is often reported in the media may not always be the best source of accurate information and on such issues, people in positions like myself may have to

MAKE YOUR MARK

It was great to hear about this year's #MakeYourMark UKYP campaign which gives a unique opportunity for young people aged 11-18 the chance to decide what Members of Youth Parliament debate later this year. I'm looking forward to see which topics are chosen and debated in November.



ANTHONY NOLAN

It was great to welcome Anthony Nolan in Parliament and see the latest statistics for the donor register in Warrington South. This great organisation helps match individuals willing to donate their blood stem cells or bone marrow to people with blood cancer and blood disorders who need lifesaving transplants. I will continue to help raise awareness for their important search for more donors.



make difficult decisions. For me, I think it is essential that I understand the challenges our service personnel face and learn from their shared experiences and perspectives.

As part of the scheme I have committed a minimum of 15 days and will be visiting bases and personnel across the UK and abroad where possible. I can honestly say this is something which I am looking forwards to, and can't wait to see what happens behind the scenes, experience a glimpse of their daily life (as limited as it may be) and get to sit side by side with some of the local heroes who have enlisted and listen to their real-life stories.

IN WARRINGTON SOUTH

ENGLISH HALF MARATHON: COMPLETING MY 10K RUN

I am so proud to have completed my 10K run in memory of my late mother and to have crossed the finishing line! I would like to thank everyone who helped me achieve



my pledge in raising £10,000 for the two local charities St Rocco's Hospice and CARE UK Charity. We have raised a total of £10,904.83. I'd like to thank everyone for your support which has been much appreciated. I originally had a taste of what the atmosphere is like at the English Half Marathon when I was the Mayor of Warrington and crossed the finish line, but it cannot be compared to the amazing and supportive atmosphere I felt as a participant this year.



The continuous cheers and words of encouragement shouted from those on the sidelines definitely helped me to continue to push myself and reach the finish line. Completing the



10K run was a challenge for me and without the support and advice I have received online via my social media which helped me immensely, I believe I would have struggled to enjoy this experience as much as I have.

I believe that this has also been a fantastic opportunity in helping raise awareness of two very important local charities - St Rocco's Hospice and Care UK.



VISITING CARE UK CHARITY

As part of the run up to my 10K run for the English Half Marathon, I visited Care UK's charity shop based at the Cockhedge Centre. It was an eye-opening experience as I was introduced to all seven families of refugees which have moved to Warrington, and who Care UK have helped in settling down in Warrington. The refugees shared their stories with me and why they were forced to leave their home country due to the war, and also the pain they feel separated with their children, brothers and sisters.

Care UK's role is extremely important as Nora and her team work tirelessly to support many vulnerable people, both in Warrington and also abroad – already 40 containers of items have been sent to support refugees in Syria and Greece.

I believe it is vital that we continue to help and support in every way possible, which I know so many of those in Warrington continue to do through supporting CARE UK Charity.



VISITING ST ROCCO'S HOSPICE

I visited St Rocco's Hospice, which I am also a patron for, to gain a greater understanding of the current issues which they face. During my visit to the hospice, I was able to see the important work the staff and volunteers in how they play a crucial role in helping support and care for those living with a terminal illness and their families. I will continue to support this organisation which cares for members of our community and their families through such a difficult time in their lives.



VISITING WARRINGTON MARKET

During September I made a trip down to our local market - Warrington Market. The market has been doing extremely well as several traders have received awards in both local and national competitions. I met with Paul Blaney, Operations Manager, who gave me a tour and introduced me to the fantastic variety of stalls available. Paul also shared with me how the new voucher card system operates and how voucher card holders will have exclusive access to different offers throughout the market stalls. It was great to also meet and talk with Rob Leicester who, at only 19 years of age, won the National Market Traders Federation award for 'UK Young Trader of the year'. This is fantastic news for both Rob, Warrington Market and our great town.



A MEETING WITH WARRINGTON FOODBANK

I had a really informative discussion with David who is the Project Manager of Warrington Foodbank. Statistics such as a 17% rise in use of the foodbank this year with 35% of the 68,000 meals provided going to children are examples showing how so many families are affected by the harsh austerity measures we face. It is important that we tackle these issues and I will continue to press the Government on this.



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 351 010

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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Our community is our strength – Together we are stronger

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