

Lynda Waltho MP

Constituency and Parliamentary Report – October 2007

Representing Amblecote, Cradley, Lye, Norton, Oldswinford, Pedmore, Quarry Bank, Wollaston, Wollescote and Stourbridge Town

Help Make a Difference



Lynda with shop manager, Anita Skelding in the background and shoppers at Barnardo's, Stourbridge

I was delighted to volunteer at Barnardo's in Stourbridge as part of 'Make a Difference Day.' The day was organised by Community Service Volunteers to encourage people to have a taster experience of volunteer work.

I met with other volunteers and constituents and was also able to see, by working on the till and restocking the shelves, what volunteer work at Barnardo's entails.

Volunteers are absolutely essential to many organisations in the third sector. Last year's Make a Difference Day was a huge success with 120,000 people throughout the UK taking part in community projects.

I am sure that this year's day of action will prove to be even more successful. If you would like to volunteer at Barnardo's, please call Anita Skelding on 01384 376675.

Supporting local youngsters 'Kick Racism out of Football'

I recently dropped in to Halesowen Harriers to help promote the 'Kick Racism out of Football' anti-racism campaign organised by The Dudley Life Skills Partnership and West Midlands Police.

I was really pleased to be invited to such an important event in Stourbridge to support the message that racism should not be tolerated in any way, shape or form. All sports, but especially football, are great vehicles to get the message across to younger people.

It really was fantastic to see many differing community groups come together in this way to challenge racist attitudes with such a proactive and creative approach. The event was a huge success and I will continue to support any efforts that reduce racist attitudes at the local and national level.



Lynda with Chief Superintendent Stuart Johnson, Sylvia Heal MP and budding young footballers

We need more affordable housing



Every region needs more affordable, decent homes - not just to own, but also to rent. Unless more homes are built, first-time buyers and young families will find it more and more difficult to get a foot on the housing ladder.

So I'm really pleased that a £10.2 billion cash boost for affordable homes across England has been announced by Housing Minister Yvette Cooper.

The funds mean that 50 per cent more new 'social houses' – 45,000 in total – will be built in the year 2010-11 than are being built this year.

Overall, 110,000 more 'social homes' will be built over the next three years after the funding was included in the Comprehensive Spending Review. The money will improve existing social housing and regeneration projects as well as boosting the supply of low-cost housing. All regions will receive an increase of at least 15 per cent by 2010-11 compared to this year.

Housing is one of the most pressing issues in my caseload and I look forward to seeing the benefits of this funding in Stourbridge as soon as possible.

More money on the way for Sure Start



I welcome recent announcements that the Government's pledge to have a children's Sure Start centre in every community by 2010 is to be backed with a further funding boost of £351 million.

I want to pay tribute to all the hard work that parents, practitioners and the local authority have done to make sure our young children have the best possible start in life.

The latest funding will pay for developing, extending and modifying existing centres and bring the total number to 3,500 by 2010.

When the children's centre project began it concentrated on providing facilities in some of the most disadvantaged areas in the country, resulting in 1,500 centres.

This will now be extended to less disadvantaged areas to build on the successful foundation already in place so that all children may benefit.

We know that children's centres in Stourbridge work - they are making considerable progress in providing better services for young children and their families.

The funding allocations come out of the overall Comprehensive Spending Review settlement announced as part of the 2007 Budget.

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