

# FAISAL RASHID MP

## WARRINGTON SOUTH

Monthly Newsletter: February 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 February 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

## 100 YEARS OF WOMEN SUFFRAGE

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate the tremendous courage of those brave women who fought so hard for change, and to look at what we have achieved over the past 100 years. In the June 2017 election, the highest proportion of female MPs ever were elected, and MPs voted to modernise our voting system in support of baby leave for politicians; of course, this will help all new parents, but this will be an especially big help for new mothers.

At present, many senior political jobs belong to women, this is an achievement, regardless of their politics. We have a female Prime Minister, a female First Minister, a female leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and within the Labour party we are very proud to have a gender equal Shadow Cabinet. Every week I have the pleasure of sitting behind some fantastic women on the Shadow Front Bench: Shadow Home Secretary, Diane Abbott, Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner and Shadow Foreign Secretary, Emily Thornberry, to name but a few.

But we must also look to the battles that are still being fought, and the barriers that are yet to be overcome. Labour are now taking the next step for gender equality. Many of my female colleagues face unacceptable levels of harassment in the online and offline worlds, violence against

women and girls continues to be a global epidemic; global estimates published by WHO indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their life time.

Despite it being the highest proportion on record, still only 32% of MPs are women, and only ¼ of the Cabinet is female. All chancellors to date have been men, and a Directory of Social Change 2017/18 report found that only 4% of companies surveyed had boards with 50% or more women. Research published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies warns that the average hourly wage for women in Britain remains 20 percent lower than for men. It is clear we have a long way to go.

Our challenge now must be to build on past achievements and push for full equality and protection for women: financially, in the workplace, in families and homes and in public spaces. I am proud to be taking the next step with my Labour colleagues – we will be making sure every woman in this country has their voice heard. We won't stop until women are fully represented, in our policies and in our Parliament. Only then can we truly build a Britain for the many.

## IRISH BORDER

I called on the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, to urgently confirm whether or not there will be a hard border on the Island of Ireland.

The calls come following comments from the Foreign Secretary in a leaked memo to the Prime Minister, which admitted the Government's main challenge was to "stop this border becoming significantly harder" and that "Even if a hard border is reintroduced, we would expect to see 95% + of goods pass the border [without] checks." These words were written despite the fact that commitments had previously been made by the Government at the end of the last year that there would be no hard border on the island of Ireland.

The Government's divisions and incompetence are putting jobs and the economy at risk. Ministers have not offered any viable way to ensure frictionless trade with Europe, protect our manufacturing industry or prevent a hard border in Northern Ireland. Labour's commitment to a nego-

tiating a new comprehensive UK-EU customs union would achieve this. The Prime Minister must start to prioritise negotiating a future relationship with the European Union that puts jobs and the economy first. Businesses need certainty and stability from the Government, not more instability and chaos.

The Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, made clear at the end of the last year that there would be no hard border on the island of Ireland. It is therefore deeply concerning to now hear his comments to the Prime Minister in a leaked letter about Northern Ireland, that he appears to be backtracking on this issue. Quite frankly his comments were reckless and completely irresponsible. His failure to stay in the House of Commons to answer Emily Thornberry's question, shows nothing but utter contempt for our Parliament and leaves little doubt that he will continue to run away from his responsibilities. The British public deserve urgent clarification on this issue.



## ORGAN DONATION CAMPAIGN

I gave my backing to a campaign to change the law on organ donation in England. Under current rules donors, or their families, must declare whether they would be happy for their organs to be given to someone else in the event of their death. But the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill, which was introduced by my Labour colleague Geoffrey Robinson MP, would change the current system so that people would instead have to declare that they are not content with being donors. This proposed new law would bring England into line with Wales which already has an opt-out system for consent. Up to 500 lives could be saved every year by adopting the new system.

On Friday 23rd February the Bill received its Second Reading in Parliament and was supported by both the Government and a cross-party collection of MPs. Currently there are around 6,500 people from across the UK are waiting for an organ transplant and I sympathise profoundly with anyone who is affected.

## SUPPORTING CHESHIRE FIRE SERVICE

I am proud to stand united with Labour MPs Chris Mattheson, Mike Amesbury, Justin Madders, Laura Smith & Derek Twigg supporting Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service on Wednesday 14th February of a meeting of the Cheshire Fire Authority. Members were asked to decide on a review to change the duty system from whole time (full-time) to on-call (part-time). An amendment to maintain the fire engine permanently as a fully-manned pump was defeated by 15 votes to three. But fire authority chairman Cllr Bob Rudd (Lab, Garden Quarter) then put forward an amendment to instruct the (fire service's) officers to determine if the second fire engine at Ellesmere Port could be relocated to another area or station, which was carried by 18 votes to 3.

Following the Grenfell Tragedy last year, I met with Paul Hancock, Chief Fire Officer at Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service. A broad range of issues were discussed, including concerns raised by constituents locally and through national campaigns. The meeting was both informative and productive, including details of all risk assessments and inspections which had been pro-actively completed in Warrington and neighbouring constituencies.

Recently Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service has once again faced with further funding cuts. I was proud to co-sign a letter to the Fire Authority led by my fellow Labour MP's objecting to proposals for further reductions in their areas. Working together on issues which have an impact on across the region is essential and any issue which affects the public sector and public safety needs to be taken seriously. We cannot allow for funding cuts which put the lives of the public at risk and it is important that we always work as a team for the genuine benefit of the communities we serve.

## PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE

I recently welcomed Adam Hills, Alex Brooker and representatives from both Warrington Wolves and Leeds Rhinos to Parliament to celebrate the first ever Physical Disability Rugby League match in the UK. I met with representatives from the Warrington Wolves Foundation and Leeds Rhinos Foundation and Leeds North West MP Alex Sobel to discuss efforts to launch and grow rugby league for those with disabilities. Myself and Alex previously tabled an early day motion in the House of Commons, to welcome the concept and congratulate all involved. During the meeting both clubs were presented with a framed copy of the motion.

Physical Disability Rugby League is a modified version of the game which involves both full contact and touch tackle options, to allow all players who have physical disabilities to participate. The first match was played on Sunday 4 February between Warrington Wolves and Leeds Rhinos, with The Last Leg's Adam Hills and Alex Brooker playing for Warrington and Leeds respectively.

I am delighted that the Warrington Wolves Foundation have developed a team for those with physical disabilities, and I look forward to supporting their work further as they seek to enrich, inspire and celebrate the Warrington community.

# IN WARRINGTON SOUTH

## THE LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHAMPION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

I launched my first annual Community Champion Awards on Thursday 1st March at Warrington Town Hall.

The awards celebrated people from across Warrington South who made a real difference to others and recognised the efforts of a wide-range of people for their achievements throughout 2017. From those who supported charitable causes or worked with young people, to those who carried out important community work or provided support in times of need.

The awards were given to Warrington South residents who are passionate about where they live and work hard to inspire others.

The following awards were presented:  
Community Award  
Media Award  
Charity of the Year 2017  
Lifetime Achievement Award.

From this year the awards will take place annually, with nominations for the 2018 awards opening later this year.

During my time as the Mayor of Warrington it was a real privilege to present awards to worthy recipients from across our town. As the MP for Warrington South it continues to be an honour to represent a town in which so many remarkable people live and work.



# MY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE...

## NHS CAMPAIGN



I joined campaigners and took to the streets outside Warrington Hospital to call for an end to the underfunding and privatisation of the NHS. Under the Conservatives the NHS is experiencing another winter crisis, with hospitals at full capacity, ambulances backed up, cancelled operations and patients waiting for hours on trolleys.



## WARRINGTON FOODBANK CONCERT

I attended the concert by flautist Meera Maharaj, in aid of Warrington Foodbank. The concert was held at St Wilfrid's Church in Grappenhall on February 2. This concert is Meera's fifth concert to support the astronomical increase in demand at Warrington Foodbank. I thoroughly enjoyed the musical performance which raised £1,100 for Warrington Foodbank.

## ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

I have been working together with Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group, relevant Councillors and other bodies to spearhead an awareness campaign on Adverse Childhood Experiences and the wider implications they will have in society. ACEs are stressful or traumatic experiences which occur during childhood which cause direct harm to the child or negatively affect the environment within which they mature. This can lead to a substantially greater chance of long-term chronic illnesses, replicating negative behaviour and suffering with mental illness. It is important that we raise awareness of this issue to ensure that Warrington South is well prepared to provide care in the future.

## FAISAL RASHID MP'S FUTURE LEADER AWARD

I congratulated Jonathan Hackett on being the first recipient of the Faisal Rashid MP Future Leader Award. The prize was awarded at this year's Warrington Youth Awards held at the Peace Centre on Saturday 10th February. This year the Faisal Rashid MP Future Leader Award, which recognises young people in politics, was introduced. The winner, Jonathan, was referred to Buddy Up with Onside Warrington Youth Club in 2016, which introduced him to the Warrington Youth Parliament. It was through his involvement in the Youth Parliament that his ability to recognise and represent the views of others shone through. Jonathan was nominated for the award alongside Chris Newton and Megan Kettle.



## ROVING SURGERIES

I have held roving surgeries this month in Golden Square, at the Village Collection for Warrington Foodbank and also with Eden Gardens Warrington to support Keep Britain Tidy. These surgeries have been a great opportunity for me to engage with local residents and communities on important issues which affect them on a daily basis.





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](mailto:faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk)  
Call: 01925 657 600

I also hold roving and street surgeries every Saturday.  
For further information please call my office.

For up to date information about my work:  
Visit my Facebook page at [facebook.com/faisalrashidMP](https://facebook.com/faisalrashidMP)  
Or my website at [www.faisalrashid.com](http://www.faisalrashid.com)

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