

FAISAL RASHID MP

WARRINGTON SOUTH

Monthly Newsletter: May 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 & Cuerdley | Stockton Heath



IN WESTMINSTER

Welcome to my May 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

NHS PRIVATISATION

I recently took part in a debate in Westminster on NHS privatisation. The debate was called after 238,022 people signed a petition to stop the privatisation of NHS services, including 442 Warrington South constituents.

Back in February I joined NHS campaigners outside Warrington Hospital to speak out against NHS privatisation. Similar events took place across the country. The level of public concern about this issue shows just how important the NHS is to British people.

The NHS is our most sacred and treasured institution. Founded 70 years ago on the fundamental principle that everyone is entitled to free healthcare, it does not discriminate on the basis of wealth, gender or race. Every day, thousands of lives are saved by our fantastic NHS staff at NHS hospitals.

The Government has a duty to protect the NHS and its staff, and to ensure that they can continue to provide world-class healthcare to the British public, free at the point of use.

We all use the NHS, and we all have a vested interest in ensuring that it is run effectively and efficiently. But privatisation and outsourcing are not the answer.

Privatisation forces NHS hospitals to outsource vital services to private companies, which are often more interested in making a profit than helping sick people. That is a fundamental conflict of interest.

The NHS has a duty to its patients, whereas private companies have a duty to their shareholders, but shareholders care about profits, and often the only way to make a profit is by cutting corners. That inevitably compromises the quality of care.

The Government claims that private sector outsourcing is good for the NHS and that it allows patients access to treatments based on t

he best quality of care and value for money, but evidence suggests otherwise.

The process by which private companies bid for contracts allows them effectively to cherry-pick the most profitable forms of treatment—usually low-risk elective surgeries. That is far from providing the best quality of care for patients.

The NHS is in crisis. Chronic underfunding compounded by a growing and ageing population has put an unbearable strain on the NHS and resulted last year in yet another winter crisis.

Yet the Government's only answer to the crisis is more privatisation.

The reality is that privatisation is bad for quality, budgets and the NHS. More privatisation will not help the NHS.

The only way to help it is to give it the funding that it needs.

TRAINS

It was brought to my attention that proposed changes to rail services between Liverpool and Manchester will affect services at Warrington Central Station from May 2018.

I am concerned that the reduction of carriages will impact my constituents who have already raised concerns of a poor and overcrowded service in peak times.

On 27 April, I wrote to Northern and Rt Hon Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport, to request an urgent impact assessment and further information on how these changes will affect Warrington Central Station.

I have received a reply from Northern and my staff have surveyed the station to assess the impact of these changes. From my current understanding, I believe that the rail services have gotten worse and need improvements

- there are many severely overcrowded services despite the anticipated 'significant proportion' of travellers choosing the alternative route which should be 'freeing up capacity'.

I believe that the Department for Transport must act and provide a solution to this catastrophe, where the impact people are facing is being severely underestimated. Chris Grayling must provide a working solution to the underinvestment in northern transport infrastructure, the 'severe shortage of available diesel trains in the UK' and the 'severe Network Rail delay' which have caused continuously overcrowded services at peak times, and also reach a sound conclusion with the unions to resolve the issue of providing assistance on rail services, which should be a top priority for the Government.

CHAPELFORD MEDICAL CENTRE

I raised the issue of Chapelford Medical Centre in Parliament. This provision was part of the original plans for the Urban Village, but many years on it has still not been delivered. Chapelford Medical Centre has been operating out of a portakabin on waste land for many years, due to excessive delays and the failings of various NHS bodies involved in this project. I'm pleased to secure an opportunity with a health minister to discuss how the delays to Chapelford Medical Centre will be resolved. I will continue to keep up the pressure and see this progress forwards.

WINDRUSH

I am extremely disappointed that the Government decided to vote against Labour's motion to release documentation relating to the Windrush scandal today. This move highlights once again that this Tory Government has no interest in integrity, openness or honesty. The Prime Minister has once again show utter contempt for democracy and parliamentary scrutiny.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

I've signed the letter by NCT, 70/30 Campaign addressed to the Department of Health and Social Care Steve Brine MP regarding the Prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Untreated maternal mental health conditions have a negative impact on not only mothers, but also significantly increases the risk of these children growing up with mental health problems and other adverse outcomes.

It is important that we all understand and care for how the mental well-being of parents have an impact on their children.

Earlier this year I met with my constituent Judy James, of Emotion Focus, to discuss creating awareness of ACEs in Warrington South. I will continue to closely follow the development of raising awareness of ACEs in Warrington South.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, MHAW was set up 17 years ago with the aim to raise awareness of people suffering with their mental health in silence.

MHAW is a welcome opportunity to begin conversations about the importance of looking after our mental health, and a welcome opportunity to change the way we approach our own, and our loved ones, mental health.

The focus of this year's MHAW was stress.

The Mental Health Foundation say that stress is a key factor in many mental health issues. A recent study showed that 85 per cent of UK adults regularly experience stress, and over a third felt stressed for at least one full day per week.

Last month, I attended a parliamentary event, hosted by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists, which encouraged MPs to tackle stress in the work place, and highlighted the important work of Occupational Therapists in promoting good Mental Health.

However, whilst events like MHAW are extremely important in raising awareness, and beginning conversations; this must be coupled with commitments to provide the funding and infrastructure needed to provide support to those suffering with their mental health.

Waiting times are a key area of concern when it comes to Mental Health Services. Indeed, earlier this year, a report from the British Medical Association (BMA) found that patients with serious mental health issues faced waiting times of up to two years for specialist support in some areas of the country. This is simply not good enough.

Currently, Childline do not have the capacity to respond to 1 in every 4 of the young people who are brave enough to reach out to them for support; which is why last week I signed a cross party letter from the NSPCC urging the Government to increase funding for volunteer training and development of online services.

It was wonderful to see so much support for Mental Health Awareness, in Parliament and beyond, over the past week; but support must be turned into concrete action.

Appropriate levels of funding must be ringfenced and swift and affordable support must be accessible to everyone who needs it. Only then we will be truly be able to address the chronic mental health crisis that our country is facing.

FOOD LABELLING

I am also supporting a Diabetes UK campaign for improved food labelling so that clear and consistent food labelling is compulsory on all packaged

NATIONAL NUMERACY DAY

16 May marked National Numeracy Day. Half of adults in the UK have the everyday maths skills that we expect of primary school children. It is important to raise awareness of this serious issue and that more must be done to increase numeracy levels so that we are all Numbers People.

BREAST CANCER CARE

I am supporting the great Afternoon Tea campaign by Breast Cancer Care. Let's all gather some friends and have a charity Afternoon Tea in July to help support more of the 62,000 people diagnosed with breast cancer each year.



NAE STRAW AT AW

It was great meeting the Sunny Side Ocean Defenders in Parliament and hear of their fantastic Nae Straw At Aw campaign which focuses on getting rid of plastic pollution.

GREAT SANKEY HIGH 'S FACTOR' WINNERS

As a prize for winning Great Sankey High School's annual talent show 'S Factor', to which I was invited to be a judge for the show, I invited Ellie Heavey and Emma Helen Brew, and their parents, to join me in Parliament. I gave them a private tour of the Palace of Westminster and had lunch with them on the Terrace by the river Thames.

I was very impressed by Ellie and Emma's performance in the talent show, and it was a great pleasure to host them both in Parliament.

The weather was beautiful - they couldn't have picked a better day to visit.

I'm sure it was a very educational experience for them, and I believe it is important that we do everything we can to get young people involved in politics.

I would like to thank Great Sankey High School for inviting me to be a judge for their talent show, and for giving Ellie and Emma the day off school so they could come down to London.



EPILEPSY WEEK

I signed the Epilepsy PIP pledge by Epilepsy Action in November. It's great to hear that there has been some progress made since then. However, I am still concerned that many people with epilepsy find themselves being denied the sufficient financial support they need to help them live full and independent lives, through unequal level of consideration between the two reviews. It's clear that more needs to be done by the Department for Work and Pensions - DWP to engage and understand the issues those with this condition are facing, especially as they try to access PIP.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

I support Royal College of Occupational Therapists' call for early intervention in mental health services. Current statistics show that 85% of people first disclose mental health problems to their GP services, where less than 5% of mental health professionals like occupational therapists work. This means that the majority of people with mental health problems have to reach crisis before they can access any kind of help. It's imperative that we properly recognise the full value of Occupational Therapists.

DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK

I also welcomed Dementia Action Week last month. Our small actions, like making the time to listen and learn about dementia, can have a big impact on those with dementia. Let's stand united with people affected by dementia this #DAW2018 with Alzheimer's Society

IN WARRINGTON SOUTH

AN EVENING OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

'An Evening of Cultural Diversity' will return on Thursday 12 July 2018! The evening will have an impressive line-up of entertainment including dancers, musicians and singers which celebrates an array of cultures and nationalities from Asia, Africa and Europe, helping to strengthen the community bond. There will also be a chance to sample different cuisines at the buffet which is included in your ticket.

DATE: Thursday 12 July 2018

LOCATION: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens

PRICE: Tickets are £10.00 per person, £5 Ages 5-10, Under 5s are free

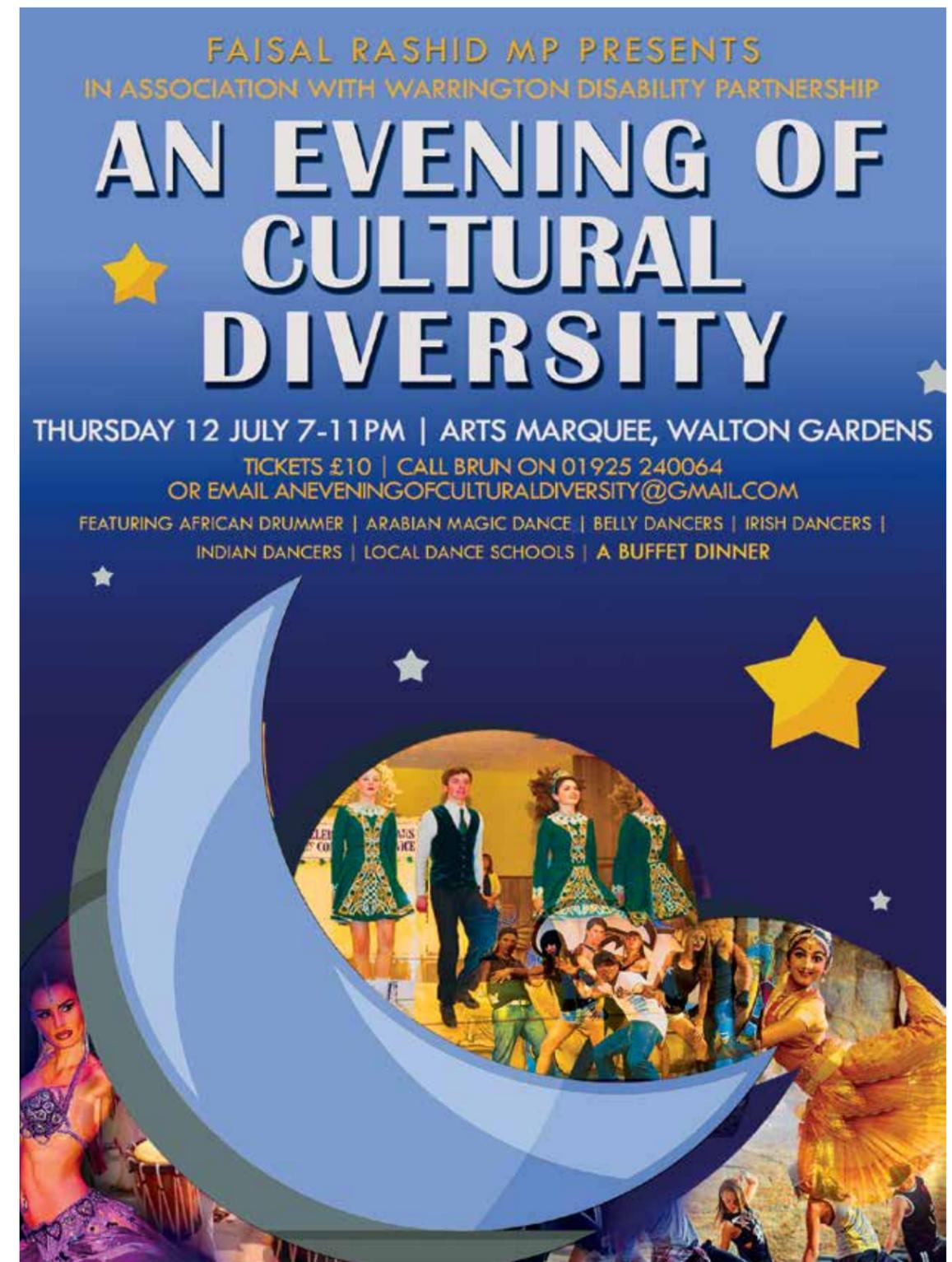
To buy a ticket, please contact: Brun Munslow on 01925 240064 or email: aneveningofculturaldiversity@gmail.com or visit the Constituency Office.

FAISAL RASHID MP PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH WARRINGTON DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP

AN EVENING OF ★ CULTURAL DIVERSITY

THURSDAY 12 JULY 7-11 PM | ARTS MARQUEE, WALTON GARDENS
TICKETS £10 | CALL BRUN ON 01925 240064
OR EMAIL ANEVENINGOFCULTURALDIVERSITY@GMAIL.COM

FEATURING AFRICAN DRUMMER | ARABIAN MAGIC DANCE | BELLY DANCERS | IRISH DANCERS |
INDIAN DANCERS | LOCAL DANCE SCHOOLS | A BUFFET DINNER





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>

In 2016, as the Mayor of Warrington, I had the privilege of starting the race and now in 2018 I am thrilled to be joining the runners in the 10K. This is a tough personal challenge. This is the first race I have entered, and I have some way to go to improve my fitness, so I know it won't be easy. But I am running in memory of my mother and for two fantastic local charities, which I know will spur me on to go the distance. My personal goal is raise £10,000 for running the 10K.

My chosen charities are; St Rocco's Hospice, a very well-respected charity, which provides end of life care for those with terminal or life-limiting conditions. I know just how crucial hospice support is when a loved one is nearing the end of their life. The care and support they provide 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.

And Care UK, a charity which works with Warrington Foodbank closely, exchanging help when required, along with distributing items to local charities including helping the homeless and women's shelter. The charity also supplies aid to refugees in Syria and Greece and assists Syrian refugees who have settled in the UK.

I want to encourage local people to join me in taking part in the race – whether in memory of a loved one or to improve your fitness. Come and get involved. You won't be disappointed.

A big thank you to everyone who sponsors me. The money raised will go to the two very worthy local charities. All I need to do now is cross the finish line on 16th September. Wish me luck, I'll need it!"

A MEETING WITH SCHOOL PUPIL JAMES LEE TO DISCUSS 'FAKE NEWS'

I met Sir Thomas Boteler pupil, James Lee, to discuss fake news and its role in today's society. James was invited to meet me to conduct an interview for a school project.

During the meeting, James asked me for my views on fake news and what action he thought was needed to combat it.

Fake news is the deliberate distribution of misinformation under the guise of fact, often in order to advance one's personal agenda or point of view.

I said that the increasing prevalence of fake news presents a unique challenge to the media and media regulation; fake news has the potential to undermine public trust in our media and democratic discourse.

It was great to meet James. His questions were thought provoking and posed some interesting points in regards to how we tackle the prevalence of fake news today

Fake news is a serious problem. The practical and ethical questions raised by fake news are complicated. While not a recent phenomenon, it has existed for almost the entirety of human history, what makes it so prevalent today is use of technology and social media.

We can try to tackle fake news and reduce its prevalence, but ultimately the most important thing to do is educate people about it, especially young people, and teach them how to identify it, and how to think critically about the things they read, and research them before sharing them on social media.

I am glad to see young students like James take an interest in this important issue, and I hope he found it an interesting and informative discussion.



SHANNON BRADSHAW TRUST CHARITY

I visited the Shannon Bradshaw Trust Community Centre and Cafe. It was lovely visiting the opening of the memorial play garden and The Shannon Bradshaw Trust Charity helps many sick children and their families in Warrington South.

WARRINGTON FOODBANK

It was great to meet with local Councillors in Chapel-ford. We joined Warrington Foodbank at the Sainsbury's Chapelford to help with raising donations.





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 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
Or my website at www.faisalrashid.com

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