



**CAROLYN HARRIS MP**  
STANDING UP FOR SWANSEA EAST



What a month April has been in both Swansea East and Westminster. Two of my campaigns collide, as the month began with the launch of the pre-payment certificate for HRT on April 1st and closed with the publication of the long-awaited Gambling White Paper. I and colleagues have campaigned so hard on both of these issues, so to have them bear fruit in the same month was so special. You know what they say about buses, you wait ages for one and then two come along at once!

## Menopause Mandate in Westminster

April has been yet another big month in my campaign to improve support and awareness of the menopause. On what was meant to be a day of celebration, the launch of the pre-payment certificate for HRT on April 1st was marred by the Government's website for women to access cheaper treatment not working. Women across England had set their alarms, eagerly awaiting a solution that could see them save up to £270 a year on HRT, only to be left confused and anxious as the poorly advertised site was down the whole morning. Campaigners, educators and activists on women's health who have fought so hard to make this a mainstream topic and ensure our daughters and sisters do not have to suffer in silence, felt robbed of a moment to celebrate progress being made for women by the Government's oversight.

We then wrapped up the month by celebrating the 1-year anniversary of Menopause Mandate. This collective of advocates, specialists, educators and experts, spearheaded by Mariella Frostrup and Davina McCall came to Parliament to raise awareness amongst my colleagues. Political veterans like Iain Duncan Smith MP and Nick Smith MP came down to learn more about the menopause and how it may impact their constituents. The Westminster bubble loves it when the Menopause Mandate ladies roll into Parliament, not because they get to snack on cupcakes and get their photos taken with Lisa Snowdon, but because it means someone else is telling them they should be doing more to raise awareness of menopause and not me!

## Publication of the Gambling White Paper

It may have taken eight years of campaigning, nine Culture Secretaries and ten changes in hair colour, but the Government have finally published the long-awaited Gambling White Paper. The White Paper sees the Government commit to reducing gambling related harm by updating our legislation, laws which haven't been changed since 2005. The White Paper includes a statutory gambling



A pleasure to introduce some of my Welsh PLP colleagues, Nick Smith MP, Gerald Jones MP and Jo Stevens MP to MM patrons Penny Lancaster, Lavina Mehta and former Olympian Michelle Griffith-Robinson



Making sure Ian Byrne MP stays to hear about menopause!



Our Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Jonathan Ashworth MP, learning all about how menopause can impact women in the workplace



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operator levy to ensure that operators help fund treatment services and research, including through the NHS, and rules to prevent bonus offers harming vulnerable people, such as free bets and VIP schemes. I am proud to see so many of the measures the Gambling Related Harm APPG proposed be implemented and that we have managed to overcome the pervasive lobbying of the industry to affect real change and protect vulnerable people.

## Everyone Deserves An Easter

Easter time is a wonderful opportunity for families and communities to come together and enjoy a long weekend of spring sunshine as the drabness of winter fades away. However, the holidays can provide a headache for many parents struggling with the cost-of-living crisis and kids not being at school. That is why I was so grateful that, thanks to the support of our community, Everyone Deserves An Easter was back with a bang this year, helping tackle holiday hunger right across South West Wales!

The day before Easter Friday the sun was shining and we were up early at Pentrehaafod School, getting everything ready to pack hampers in the sports hall. It was a pleasure to have my friend, Gerald Jones MP, come down and help us pack. He was amazed at the partnership our community showed in coming together to support Everyone Deserves An Easter, and the credit goes to everyone who supported with donations or helped us pack and deliver hampers. Gerald took his hampers to Merthyr Valley Homes and the Barnardo's in his constituency, meaning for the first time our help reached families in Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney!



So lovely to have Gerald Jones MP come down and help pack hampers for Everyone Deserves An Easter

## An Important Thank You to Our First Responders

It was a real privilege to meet with the first responders who dealt with the gas explosion in Morrision last month so professionally. I met with the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Police first responders, firefighters and police officers who responded to the incident in Clydach Street. Crews from Morrision, Swansea West, Neath, Gorseinon, Port Talbot and Carmarthen were called to action and I thanked them on behalf of the people of Swansea East, who I know are so grateful for their hard work throughout such a difficult period for the community.



Such a privilege to meet our heroic first responders