



Carolyn Harris MP

Member of Parliament for Swansea East

Back to work in Westminster!

December was an absolute blast. It was such a joy to spend so much time back home with the community I love for #EveryoneDeservesAChristmas. We distributed 800 hampers, reached 2000 families and thought we had raised £28,000. That was until last week the Grand announced that, thanks to the 33,000 people that watched this year's panto, a further £18,473 was collected. I am astonished by the generosity of our community, and it ensured #EveryoneDeserves will be back next Christmas. What a way to start 2023!



The Government's confirms HRT PPC Implementation

On the one hand, it was a relief to have the Government finally confirm they will implement the Pre-Payment Certificate (PPC) for HRT in England, this April. In Wales, HRT along with other prescriptions are of course free, thanks to our Welsh Labour Government. However, in England, women were having to pay for treatment. The PPC is a single annual charge of £18.70 for a year's supply that can be collected flexibly and will save women hundreds.

On the other hand, the Government committed to this over 16 months ago, following my Private Members Bill and it's astounding it has taken this long. I was also horrified to see the Government reject many of the innovative solutions recommended by the Women & Equalities Select Committee regarding better support for menopausal women in the workplace. Once again, this Conservative Government lets women down.



Delivery firm Evri lets down customers and employees

I told the Prime Minister, during PMQs on January 11th, just how poor the service and working conditions of the delivery firm Evri have been. I have heard from thousands of people telling me their parcels have been lost, small businesses shut down and drivers pushed to the brink. This race to the bottom and entrenchment of the gig economy is no good for the country, but the Prime Minister didn't want to hear any of it. He told me his Ministers are looking into it, but I had been informed prior by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy that Evri are a private company and as such, nothing can be done.



Yet another painful example of how getting answers out of this Government is like getting blood from a stone.



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Wales In Westminster

Swansea East and Wales were at the forefront of my mind this month in Westminster. During PMQs on January 25th, I questioned why the Government are extending financial support to museums and libraries for their energy costs during the cost-of-living crisis, and not leisure and sports centres. Morriston, Penlan and Cefn Hengoed Freedom Leisure centres provide an invaluable service to our communities, allowing little ones and pensioners to access exercise without extortionate costs, and are always so supportive of #EveryoneDeserves. The thought of them collapsing due to rising energy costs is unthinkable and the Government must step up.



The Welsh Labour family in Westminster met with the EFL to discuss how the prospect of the fan lead review and an independent regulator would benefit the clubs in our communities. We need to make sure that clubs like Swansea City AFC, that do so much for our local community and grassroots, are protected and supported by the success of the Premier League.



Visits across Swansea East

It was a pleasure to visit such great initiatives in Swansea East this January. The Sharing Table do fantastic work across Swansea teaching little ones how to cook and it was such fun seeing their new kitchen at Morriston Primary School alongside Mike Hedges MS. The project was generously funded by Peter Lynn Solicitors who are always so supportive of good projects in the community.

South Wales Police's youth volunteers were awarded the Peace Mala Bronze Accreditation earlier in the month. It was lovely to see young people driven by a passion for public service and the desire to support their community.



As always, I love to speak to local employers about how they can support their employees through menopause as part of my mission to make Swansea a world leader on menopause support. So, I was glad to speak to GWR at their Swansea depot about the support they provide and what more they could do to keep their workers feeling valued and heard.