

Ann Coffey MP
EMAIL
NEWSLETTER



Representing Heaton Moor, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Mersey, Heaton Norris, Brinnington,
Town Centre, Edgeley, Shaw Heath, Cale Green, Cheadle Heath, Davenport, Adswood,
Bridgehall, Lancashire Hill, Heaviley, Offerton and Larkhill

Campaign to scrap distressing dementia rules



Some families are in great distress because their relatives who are suffering from dementia are classed as being in 'state detention' when they die in care homes.

This means that there may be delays in burials because there now has to be an inquest, even when a person dies of natural causes.

This is the result of a Supreme Court ruling, which has led to a massive increase in the number of deprivation of liberty safeguard assessments being carried out to check that dementia sufferers are not being inappropriately restrained. It has become a bureaucratic nightmare costing Stockport Council £1.2 million a year – valuable money that could be spent on social care.

The other problem is that because a person, subject to a deprivation of liberty order is deemed to be in state detention, this means the police have to be called when they die. This is upsetting relatives at a time of great grief.

I led a debate in the House of Commons in June and am pleased that the Government responded by bringing forward the deadline for a Law Commission review into the deprivation of liberty system. I also met the Chief Coroner who I am hopeful will now make some changes in procedures to make it easier for relatives when a member of their family dies.

I am also going to hold a meeting in Stockport involving GPs, care homes and inspectors and the coroner, to discuss how we can ease the distress for relatives.

Popular Heaton's drop-in service



One of my first visits after the general election was to the support club for dementia sufferers and their carers at the United Church in Heaton Moor.

This popular weekly drop in club was set up last October by Beryl Whitehead.

About 70 people regularly attend and it is supported by a fantastic band of volunteers. There is music and dancing and a very happy atmosphere which lifts everybody up. We could do with clubs like this in every community in Stockport.

One of the issues raised on my visit was the difficulty some carers experience in finding out about services available to them. I want to make sure that carers are not left feeling isolated. This is a devastating illness for families and they need all the support they can get.

A good step forward would be for ALL GP's surgeries to give full information as early as possible to families so they know they will not be left on their own.

Ban legal highs

I want to see a ban on 'legal highs' which can have a devastating effect on young people who can easily become hooked. These mind bending drugs can make people very vulnerable and can led to young girls and boys being at great risk of being groomed by sexual predators. A constituent of mine wrote to me recently to support the campaign to ban legal highs and outlined what a devastating and life ruining effect they had had on her former partner. She told me: "The thought of children and young adults becoming addicted to this is horrific".

I am pleased that Stockport Labour councillors have backed a blanket ban on legal highs, including sales in the town centre. A voluntary scheme was launched in Stockport to prevent the sale of products such as nitrous oxide and poppers but only three out of 13 businesses identified as selling legal highs have signed up to the pledge to take them off the shelves.

A Psychoactive Substances Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech which would make it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import or export what are currently known as legal highs.

I support this but I believe that legislation on its own is not enough and there is a need for more education in schools and elsewhere to send out the message that just because these

substances are legal, it does not mean that they are safe.

Flying the flag for Stockport in Parliament Square



Talented pupils from Didsbury Road Primary School designed a beautiful flag which was chosen to be flown outside the Houses of Parliament for a week to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

Didsbury was one of 80 schools selected to have their flag sewn to full size and it was flown in Parliament Square to represent the historical county of Lancashire.

Eleven pupils from Year 5 and 6 contributed to the flag's design which represents the progress of industrial Stockport into the era of technology, depicting our famous 27 arched viaduct with the motorway underneath and the river Mersey running alongside. The inclusion of the "pyramid" centre in the flag design reminds us that though Stockport has an industrial past, it is technology which will take us into the future.

The 2015 Flags Project was a wonderful celebration of how children all across the UK see their communities.

Parliament has now gifted the flags to the participating schools and I was delighted to bring the full sized flag back from London to Stockport and present it to pupils at the school.

Protecting missing and sexually exploited children

My focus on work to help missing and sexually exploited children continues following on from the publication of my independent report 'Real Voices – Child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester'.

I was pleased to speak at the Project Phoenix Conference about child sexual exploitation in Manchester in May. It is essential that children and young people's experiences of CSE are listened to – young people themselves are key to prevention. I am delighted, therefore, with the success of the weekly radio show hosted by Unity Radio (the NGY show) where young people discuss and share their experiences and knowledge of grooming – this was one of the central recommendations of my *Real Voices* report. You can find a link to the NGY weekly radio show here – <http://www.itsnotokay.co.uk/professionals/support-the-campaign/ngy-show/>

This month I will be chairing a conference on the links between children going missing and getting involved in gangs. These children are at great risk of sexual exploitation and of being coerced into pushing and taking drugs.

I also attended the Annual Ministerial Roundtable on Missing Children and Adults at the Home Office. I am pleased that the key areas for action agreed at the meeting were all issues that the All Party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing Children, which I chair, has long been campaigning for. These include: improved data collection and effective multi-agency information sharing and

improved awareness of the Child Rescue Alert and a new national database of missing people.

Howzat! Half a century for Brinnington Community Centre



Brinnington Community Centre celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special party. So many amazing people have been involved with the centre over the years and it is a wonderful community asset. One of the people who has put in so much time and effort on behalf of others is Brenda Drury, who has been volunteering as Treasurer at the Community Centre for the past 25 years and who won a well-deserved award at this year's Brinnington Volunteer Awards.

Protecting the Bees

Many constituents have written to me recently about a campaign to ensure that farmers cannot use a particular pesticide that poses a serious risk to bees. I support this campaign by Friends of the Earth and have taken this up with the Minister.



Markets Award

Markets, like our own historic market in Stockport, are at the heart of our communities, which is why I have been a member of the All Party Parliamentary Markets Group for the

last 14 years. I was very privileged to be awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the National Market Traders Federation at the last meeting of the group.



Open Day at Stockport Quaker meeting house



I called in to the Open Day of the newly rebuilt Quaker Meeting House in Cooper Street, off Hillgate. Quakers have a long history in Stockport, with the first local Meeting House dating from 1705.

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