



VALERIE MEETS MINISTER OVER JOSEPH LECKIE SCHOOL REPAIRS

Valerie said: "Since I was elected I have been asking the Minister to meet with me to honour the previous Government's commitment to allocate funds for repairs at the School. At the meeting I was accompanied by Principal, Keith Whittlestone and JL governor Councillor Ditta. It was important that the Minister was able to hear first hand about the disruption the severely dilapidated buildings cause to students' education. The main building at Joseph Leckie Academy is nearly 75 years old. It is now in a severe state of disrepair with damaged masonry, leaking roofs, rotting window frames and asbestos requiring removal."

Valerie added: "The meeting was positive. The Minister accepted that a visit was necessary and has asked an official to visit."



Managing Risk in the NHS

On Wednesday 17 July 2013, the Opposition debated a motion on "Managing risk in the NHS".

Speaking in the debate, Valerie said: "It's very easy for those who are exposed to the world of NHS Structures to say how to fix it. Robert Francis QC took evidence

from those who directly use the service and how they came across the inaction and indifference of a large institution. Sir Bruce Keogh has done the same with his report. He has talked directly to those patients and clinicians at the front line, not just to those in the boardrooms. Those at the front line are the ones that should be listened to, those who work in the NHS who have provided a service even when their pay is frozen. Patients just want professional people who are competent at their job and who care for them at their most vulnerable. Only if we listen to them can we wish the NHS many more happy returns in the future."



Questions in Parliament

In July, Valerie asked:

- The Health Minister in the Urgent Question on Plain Tobacco packaging what public health initiatives she would undertake to stop 570 children a day taking up smoking. The transcript is available [here](#).
- The Health Secretary whether he would implement Robert Francis' recommendation that minimum safe staffing levels help patient safety. The transcript is available [here](#).
- The Solicitor-General to assure the House that public money will not be wasted in transaction costs between Departments following the merger of departmental legal advisors into the Treasury Solicitors Department. The transcript is available [here](#).

Health Committee Report

In July the Health Select Committee, of which Valerie is a member, published its report into Urgent and Emergency Services.

Valerie said: "We think it is extraordinary that consultant coverage for a minimum of 16 hours a day during the working week is guaranteed in only 17% of designated A&E Departments. The figure is even lower at weekends and there are high vacancy rates for senior staff and consultants leading, inevitably, to high locum costs"



The Committee's report is available to download [here](#).

Land Banking

At Communities and Local Government Questions, Valerie asked the Planning Minister what steps he is taking to bring empty sites with planning permission back into use.

Valerie said: "This is a problem which must be tackled. People who live near the former Servis Factory site in Darlaston have been enduring antisocial behaviour because the site, which has permission for housing, has been left empty for a number of years while nothing has been done."



Valerie's question and the Minister's response can be read [here](#).

School Visits

Valerie visited Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Palfrey Junior School on their last day of term.

Valerie said: "At Palfrey Junior School, I was delighted to present Year 6 with a reminder of their last year which was a photograph of their class signed by their classmates and teachers."



"At Pheasey Park Farm Primary School I was highly impressed by the determination of the staff to give pupils the very best start in life. The picture above shows an already large thank you file."

Surgeries

Valerie holds regular surgeries. To arrange an appointment, please call the Constituency Office on 01922 635835

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