



Valerie discusses Epilepsy Bill with the Prime Minister



On Wednesday 12th October Valerie met with the Prime Minister David Cameron to discuss her Ten Minute Rule Bill on epilepsy and related conditions (education and health services). Also attending the meeting were specialist neurologist Professor Helen Cross, Laura Sandys MP (Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Epilepsy), Karen Deacon (National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy), Sharon Wood (Joint Epilepsy Council) and Simon Wigglesworth (Epilepsy Action).

The Prime Minister indicated that he will ask the Departments of Health and Education to look at the proposals in the Bill. The Bill asks for immediate referral to a specialist clinician for anyone suspected of having had a seizure. It also asks for an annual assessment in schools to identify the additional needs of children with epilepsy and to help them achieve their potential.

Valerie said: "The Prime Minister was very positive. I hope that the Departments of Health and Education take up the proposals that I put forward in my Bill."

To Contact Valerie:

Constituency Office: 114a Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1SZ
Telephone: 01922 635835

Westminster Office: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Telephone: 020 7219 7176

Email: valerie.vaz.mp@parliament.uk

VALERIE OPPOSES PUBLIC BODIES BILL

During September and October Valerie sat on the Public Bill Committee for the Public Bodies Bill. The Bill proposes to give Ministers the power to abolish several important public bodies without full Parliamentary scrutiny. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, The Human Rights Commission and the Human Tissue Authority are amongst the bodies included in the Bill.

Valerie said: "These bodies do important, specialist work and should not be abolished or have their functions merged or transferred without full parliamentary scrutiny."

The Bill had its Third Reading in the House of Commons on 25th October. Final amendments will be considered by the House of Lords.

VALERIE CELEBRATES BIRMINGHAM ROAD BUS LANE SUCCESS

Following a year long campaign by Valerie and residents, Walsall MBC has removed the unnecessary and little-used bus lane from Birmingham Road, near to the junction with Broadway and Broadway North.

Birmingham Road resident, Philip Antill brought the issue to Valerie at her surgery in June 2010. Since then, Valerie has raised questions in Parliament, set up a liaison committee for residents and Council officers to discuss the issue and written to the Council on a number of occasions. Residents had submitted a petition of 163 names to the Council in August 2008.

Valerie said: "I am delighted that Walsall MBC has listened to residents' concerns. This shows what can happen when people work together for the good of the community."

VALERIE WELCOMES PUBLICATION OF INDEPENDENT AGE'S "WISE GUIDE"

Wise Guide

Valerie has welcomed the publication of the "Wise Guide" booklet by the charity Independent Age.

Valerie said: "I am pleased that Independent age has published the Wise Guide for the over-65s. The guide is full of useful advice that many will appreciate."

"To order a copy of the booklet, you can write to Freepost RLTT-ACRZ-LZZT, Independent Age, 6 Avonmore Road, London, W14 8RL or telephone 020 7605 4225. A reference copy is also available at my Walsall South Constituency Office."

COMMONS DEBATES EU REFERENDUM MOTION

On Monday 24th October, the House of Commons debated a motion for a referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. The debate was only the second to result from an e-Petition following a debate on the Hillsborough disaster a week earlier.

Valerie said: "I did not vote for a referendum as in my view the case for a referendum at this time has not been made. Britain should currently be focused on providing jobs and growth. I would consider supporting a referendum if and when a Government seeks to make a major change to Britain's relationship with the European Union."

Surgeries

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