



## Valerie meets with Black Country Talent Match in Westminster

At a meeting organised by Ian Austin MP, I met with Project Manager Kim Babb and Business Engagement Adviser Emma Trump including young people who have benefited from Talent Match. This project supports those aged 18-29 who have been out of work, training or education for over six months. The project has 5 hubs across the Black Country helping to improve young people's confidence, motivation and optimism to enable them to access local employment and training opportunities. Since 2014, Talent Match has reached over 500 young disadvantaged people and is making a real difference to young people's lives in Walsall.

## Business Questions 7 September



I asked for a debate on restoration and renewal, a statement from the Secretary of State for Education to make it clear that every child can have an education, and a statement from the Chancellor on the fiscal rules. I raised the crisis in social care; £100m will be spent on recruiting GPs from abroad, and the NHS needs a boost of £350m. I called on the Government to respond to a UN report which found the UK has failed to uphold the UN convention on disabled rights. On Brexit, I asked the Leader to confirm how many statutory instruments will come before the House. I called on the Government to ensure that the result of the election is reflected in the membership of Standing Committees.

## Walsall South Diabetes Figures

Latest figures by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Diabetes show that 9.28% of the population in Walsall South has diabetes: 7,871 people, making Walsall South the 15<sup>th</sup> highest UK constituency. Around 80% of the total diabetes spend is going on treating avoidable complications including kidney failure, heart attacks and stroke. These complications and type-2 diabetes can partly be avoided through lifestyle choices.

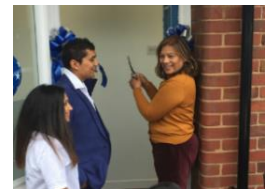
## European Union Withdrawal Bill Vote 11 September



The EU Withdrawal Bill repeals the 1972 European Communities Act and will bring all existing EU laws into UK law. HM Opposition Labour Party's position: it is settled that we are leaving the EU, the way we leave is not. We opposed the Bill because it is fatally flawed. It puts unaccountable power into the hands of Government Ministers, side-lines Parliament on key decisions, and puts crucial rights and protections at risk. The Bill passed by 326 Ayes to 290 Noes and will now move on to the Committee stage.

## Back2Fitness Physiotherapy Clinic opening

I opened the brand new Back2Fitness Physiotherapy Clinic, Wolverhampton Road West on 16 September. Jay Patel is the owner and innovator of this excellent local business. Musculoskeletal conditions have an enormous impact on the quality of life of millions of people in the UK, affecting around 9.6 million adults and 12,000 children. Details of the Clinic's assessments and treatments can be found here: [www.b2fitnessphysio.co.uk](http://www.b2fitnessphysio.co.uk).



## Nomination of Members to Committees



On 12 September I led the opposition to the Government's motion on the nomination of Members to Committees. The motion establishes a new Selection Committee, and allows the Committee to give the Government a majority on any Public Bill and Delegated Legislation Committees. This is a Minority Government. They did not get a mandate. The Rules of the House make it clear that Committee membership should reflect the "composition of the House" and not the Government giving itself a majority. The vote was lost: Ayes: 320 Noes: 301.

## Business Questions 14 September

I voted on two Labour Opposition Day motions on 13 September which the Government abstained on, so I asked the Leader of the House how the lift on the nurses' pay cap and the cancellation of a rise in tuition fees will be enacted as that was the will of the House. I asked why NHS Professionals was being marketed for sale and then stopped. With the Government's abolition of an 18-week target, people are forced to pay thousands for operations privately, such as £14,000 for hip operations. I called for the Government to publish an impact statement on what would happen to the country's economy if we left the EU without a deal and asked when a White Paper on trade will be published.



## News in Brief:



- **Valerie signs pledge to Back British Farming:** On 13 September I pledged to (i) ensure British farmers retain the best possible access to existing markets inside and outside the EU and (ii) ensure the process of leaving the EU maintains the highest level of certainty and stability for British farm businesses.



- **Valerie meets Bollywood star Salman Khan on 15 September:** Salman was given the Global Diversity Award 2017 in Parliament to honour his contribution to the Indian film industry as an actor, producer, television personality, singer and philanthropist; a career spanning more than 25 years.