



## PRE-RECESS ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Valerie raised flawed council consultations at Stafford Road, Walstead Road and Darlaston Road as well as accountability in the NHS at the Pre Recess Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 22 July 2014.

Valerie said: "These debates are a good time to raise issues on behalf of our constituents, and a number of Members touched on the theme I want to pursue, which is the relationship between the people and those who make decisions for them and why it is becoming such a struggle for people when their voice is not heard. In particular, I want to cover how local authorities consult local people. I also want to touch on the NHS and access to treatment and services. At Stafford Road and Walstead Road, residents were consulted on the installation of speed humps but this was during the summer when many were away. Non responses were counted as in favour of the Council's proposals. At Darlaston Road, despite numerous incidents on the existing zebra crossing and a petition of 300 names the Council has refused residents' requests for a signal controlled crossing."

"Our constituents need more information and transparency. Many have complained to me about their local GP service, Sai Medical. Their complaints went unheeded by the surgery. They were told that they had to complain to the patient advice and liaison service. They were never seen by the same doctor, only by a continuous supply of locums. I had to have a meeting with the local clinical commissioning group, which told me that Malling Health, a company based in Kent, had a contract with NHS England. The Library found out that the Care Quality Commission had issued a damning report on this company."

### Health Select Committee

Valerie said: "On 3 July 2014 the Health Select Committee published our report into the Management of Long-Term Conditions. These include conditions such as diabetes, arthritis and asthma among others. Approximately 15 million patients in England have long-term conditions. The Committee made 14 recommendations. These included that all localities in England adopt models to commission and deliver integrated care and support by mid-2015. Local commissioners should engage the public about how objectives for health and wellbeing outcomes might be best achieved. And for the Department to revise its working definition of long-term conditions to emphasise the treatment of the person, not the condition."

"At our evidence session on the Handling of NHS Patients Data we discussed the Care.Data initiative, its pause, and previous breaches in patients' data. I questioned Sir Nick Partridge, Director of the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), who had chaired the inquiry into the breaches. Following my questions he apologised for these breaches, which included selling patient data to insurance companies."

"I asked Tim Kelsey, National Director for Patients and Information at NHS England, if there were safeguards in the Care.Data programme so that a person can know to whom their data has been given and for what purpose. Mr Kelsey could not give me reassurances that this would be possible. I am concerned that our identities would not be safeguarded under these initiatives."

### Situation in Gaza

Valerie said: "Many of you have written to me regarding the situation in Gaza. I have written to the Foreign Secretary and I have signed EDM 204 which calls on the Government to pressure Israel and ensure accountability for any violations that occur. I am alarmed that so far the death toll of Palestinian civilians has reached more than 1,000 including more than 226 children."

### Walstead Road Residents' Meeting

"I arranged the meeting with Council Officers because residents of Walstead Road are rightly angry that Walsall MBC did not carry out a meaningful consultation before traffic islands and large speed humps were installed. Residents were angered that non responses were considered to be in favour of the Council's proposals and that the consultation took place during the school holidays in July 2012."

"Residents are the people who are most affected by the scheme and also the people who know the road best. I was delighted that so many residents turned out to make clear to the Council Officers present that they are now having to live with a scheme that is damaging their cars, creating disturbing noise and vibrations and which makes it difficult for them to reverse out of their own driveways. Residents made a number of helpful suggestions including that different measures could be installed at different points on the road."

### Beacon Heights Bus Petition

On Wednesday 2 July 2014, Valerie, presented a petition of 65 signatures to Parliament calling for a bus service to be introduced serving residents of the Beacon Heights Park Homes site after 7pm and on Sundays.

Valerie said: "There is a clear strength of feeling that residents are cut off from public transport, particularly in the evenings and at weekends. More than half the residents of Beacon Heights Park Homes signed the petition. I have written to Centro to work with local bus operators to ensure that this service is provided as soon as possible. I will continue to press Centro and the bus operators. I hope that access to public transport for residents of the Beacon Heights site will be improved."

### Surgeries

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

### To Contact Valerie:

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Leader of the House Questions

At Leaders Questions, Valerie asked for an urgent statement on patient budgets and the change of policy by NHS England. Valerie also asked "who is in charge of the NHS" as the change of policy had not been announced by ministers, but by NHS England.



### Individual Electoral Registration



Valerie said: "Individual Electoral Registration has now been introduced in the UK and it is crucial that people make sure they are registered to vote so they are not disenfranchised. I am concerned that sufficient measures have not been put in place to ensure that people already registered to vote remain on the register. It is now possible to register to vote online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)."

### Foreign Office Questions

Number 5 at FCO questions on 22 July 2014 related to freedom of religion and belief. Valerie was able to ask the Minister to update the House on religious violence in Mandalay, Burma earlier in July and on the reports that the Religious Affairs Minister is now in custody. The Minister responded that he had raised concerns about the situation in Burma with the Burmese Ambassador.



### Translation Services



At Justice Questions Valerie raised the case of a constituent on jury service who had a trial adjourned for four days while the court looked for a translator. The service seems to be deteriorating despite payments for translation services to Capital increasing from £7 million to £15 million over the past two years.

### Delegated Legislation Committee

On Wednesday 9 July 2014, a Delegated Legislation Committee scrutinised the Draft Green Deal (Qualifying Energy Improvements) (Amendments) Order 2014.

Valerie said: "I asked the Minister if he could provide a breakdown of the take up of the green deal in each of our constituencies. The Minister said that he would write back to me."

### Insulin Patch Pumps

Valerie said: "In June I wrote to the Health Secretary and to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to ask for insulin patch pumps to be made available on the NHS to all patients with Type 1 Diabetes. Patch pumps are much smaller than traditional insulin pumps. This allows children to be more active with an unobtrusive delivery of insulin."

"I received responses from NICE and the Health Dept. NICE have not published guidance on patch pumps but Sir Andrew Dillon, NICE's Chief Executive, replied that he will look into whether patch pumps meet the selection criteria for the NICE Guidelines. Both NICE and DH said it was a clinical decision for Walsall CCG and local GPs. I have written to GPs asking for reassessments for my constituents."

### Elderly Care 2014 Speech

On Monday 7 July 2014, Valerie spoke at Elderly Care 2014, a conference organised by the British Journal of Hospital Medicine.

Valerie said: "The conference focused on the clinical Implications of ageing and its relevance to practice. As a member of the Health Select Committee, I spoke about what lessons should be learnt from the Francis Inquiry report."

"Firstly, there is a need for a change in culture. The Francis Report recommended fundamental standards of minimum safety and quality, with a zero-tolerance approach to non-compliance. Secondly, the health system needs to embrace openness, transparency and candour. Mistakes need to be addressed early with the patients and the public. Thirdly, patients need to be put first. Ensuring patients receive effective and compassionate care from staff working within a common culture, and protected from avoidable harm and any deprivation of their basic rights. We need to do all we can to keep our elderly safe."

### Summer Reading Challenge

Valerie is supporting a campaign run by the charity The Reading Agency to encourage all primary school children to join their local library and take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Valerie said: "I visited Moorcroft Wood Primary School where I presented three books to the Headteacher Andy Nichols for the library. I also visited Pheasey Library where I donated two books that will be used as prizes for a bookhunt and donated 2 books to Pleck Library."

### Tesco Foodbank Collection



On Friday 4 July 2014, Valerie showed support for the foodbank collection at the Tesco Extra Store on Wismore in collaboration with the Trussell Trust and FareShare.

Valerie said: "The collection was organised by the store's Better Service Manager, Nikki Jennings who told me that they had already filled three cages of food when I visited. Tesco added an extra 30% to all donations received. In Walsall, the foodbank collected enough food to supply 2,165 meals to people in need. I would like to congratulate Tesco, its staff and its customers on their generosity."

### Meal for the Homeless



Valerie attended a gathering for homeless people in Walsall during Ramadan which was organised jointly by the Oak Tree Trust and the Midlands International Aid Trust at the Crossing at St Paul's on Darwall Street.

Valerie said: "I am delighted that people from different faiths came together during Ramadan to offer a free meal to homeless people in Walsall."

"The Walsall Street Ministry was also present at the Crossing at St Paul's offering free fruit drinks and confidential support to anyone in need. The Street Ministry is available to those in need in Walsall every Friday night."

### Moxley Post Office

Valerie met with residents and a representative from the Post Office following the closure of the Post Office on Burns Road, Moxley and replaced by a Post Office on Kendrick Road, Moxley.

Valerie said: "Residents contacted me because they were unclear why the Post Office had been moved and why there is no post box outside the new Post Office. I have written to Royal Mail as residents would like to post letters when the Post Office is closed."