



Kate Osborne MP
Monthly Newsletter
April 2023

Dear Constituent,

It's been another really busy month both in Parliament and across the constituency, with many visits to schools, community groups and local companies including newly opened businesses. As well as accompanying MPs on a delegations to Turkey, plenty of media too including BBC Politics North – discussing strikes, food deserts and food poverty, as well as new Voter ID laws ahead of the local election taking place on 4th May! I've continued to raise issues that constituents need urgent help with from spiralling food and energy costs to housing and rubbish collections.

Read on to see full details and all of the monthly highlights!

Campaigning ahead of the local election!

Over the past few weeks, our candidates and members have run fantastic campaigns getting the Labour message out and sharing their priorities for their ward with voters.

As we approach polling day, we need to make sure we get as many of our family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbours to vote for the Labour Party as possible.

Here is some important information ahead of polling day:

- Polling stations open at 7am and close at 10pm on Thursday 4th May.
- Before you can vote at this election, you will need to show photographic identification (photo ID) at the polling station before you are given a ballot paper. This is a new legal requirement introduced by the government. [Here is a link to a list of ID's you can use: Voter ID: New requirement for voters to provide photographic identification at polling stations.](#)
- Those who have received a postal vote but who are yet to post their ballot, can STILL VOTE by taking their postal vote into their polling station on Thursday.
- [Find your local polling station here: Find your polling station | Where Do I Vote?](#)
- You can apply for an emergency proxy vote up until 5pm on polling day by contacting the council's election officer.

Café Obscura

It's important to support local businesses and I'm always glad to pop into one of our lovely café's in Hebburn, Café Obscura, to pick up a coffee and have a chat with owner Karl. The service is always excellent – as is the coffee!



VEX Robotics

Two of our brilliant primary schools have teams competing in the VEX Robotics World Championships in Texas. Wardley Primary School and Bill Quay Primary have both qualified for the finals and are jetting off to America, representing the UK and the Jarrow constituency on an international level!

This is such a brilliant opportunity for the children, the schools and our region - to demonstrate the incredible talent we have here in the Jarrow constituency and the North East. I wish Team Wardley and Team Bill Quay the very best of luck in the competition - we are all so proud already!

Bill Quay Primary School

I was pleased to be able to meet the team from ahead of their departure and was so impressed with the knowledge the children had. Their passion is truly a testament to their teacher Mrs Dye who has gone above and beyond to ensure the children have access to this opportunity.

Wardley Primary School

I had a great visit meeting Wardley Robotics Teams. Their Lego Team has recently competed in Harrogate where they came 15th and their VEX Robotics Team are currently in Dallas, Texas



competing in the World Championships. The students had some brilliant questions for me during the Q&A session too!

Both schools have been fundraising to cover the cost of the competition, including accommodation for the team and families. If you would like to donate, you can donate to Wardley Primary School here <https://www.gofundme.com/f/wardley-primary-provide-stem-and-robotics-for-all> and to Bill Quay Primary School here <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bill-quay-primary-invited-to-world-competition> I am sure you will join me in wishing both teams every success in the competition!



K9 Dog Day Care – Hebburn

I was pleased to visit Abby and Ali, co-owners of K9 Dog Day Care based in Hebburn to discuss with them the brilliant work they do in looking after pups from across our community! Both were so passionate about their work, with ambitions to expand their provision – including hopes to invest in outdoor enrichment activities for their four-legged clients!

As a new business, we also had some good discussions about the struggles many businesses are facing at the moment with the cost of living. It is so important that we support our local businesses, and I was glad to pop along to speak with them and offer my support.



Pelaw Coffee

Another brilliant local café in the Jarrow constituency is Pelaw Coffee, I popped in this month ahead of a campaigning session in Pelaw and Heworth and had a great chat with the team there!



On the campaign trail:

Polling Day is right around the corner and our local Labour candidates have been running brilliant campaigns – I've been pleased to join for door knocking sessions, stalls, and leafleting. We must all do our bit to support our excellent candidates – so don't forget on 4th May to get out to your nearest polling station and #VoteLabour!



It has been brilliant to get out campaigning across the wards over the past few weeks – there has been some great conversations with residents about local issues and our candidates are already putting in excellent work to engage in these conversations. I am confident that if elected, each candidate will be outstanding representatives for our communities within both councils.

I look forward to joining them all out on Polling Day and I hope to see as many of you as possible!



Centre for Turkish Studies (CEFTUS) Delegation

During recess I was a part of a group of Labour MPs who went on a delegation with Centre for Turkish Studies (CEFTUS) to look at the current political situation ahead of the elections and to visit Kahramanmaraş, one of the areas hit hardest by the recent earthquake.

Whilst there we met with all political parties ahead of the elections, visiting the earthquake zone and spoke to many people who are still suffering, we then also attended a rally with Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu in Istanbul.

This trip was hugely moving, it is clear that so much more could and should be



done to help people impacted by the earthquake. When talking to people about their hopes for the elections almost all said whoever wins needs to take action to help the people stranded – but none had confidence in Erdogan’s promises to rebuild homes in one year – pointing out that a lax attitude to building regs made the impact of the earthquake worse – and those standards are not being improved – if anything rushing to get them all up would make things worse.

You can read more about this delegation in Labour Outlook [here](#).



Friends of Hebburn Cemetery

It was great to meet John this month, from Friends of Hebburn Cemetery for a walkabout to discuss the excellent work the Friends group do in looking after the cemetery. The Friends group run a regular tea room, stocked with homemade baked goods, with the funds raised going directly into the work they do around the cemetery as well as into our community.



Workers Memorial Day

It was an honour to attend the International Workers Memorial Day ceremony in North Marine Park this month. Every year more people are killed at work than in wars – and on Workers Memorial Day we remember the dead and fight for the living.

Our poor employment laws has had a direct impact in how workplaces treat their workers, forcing workers into unsafe work spaces, refusing to carry out adequate risk assessments, and having the lowest sick pay in Europe means people forced into carrying on working when ill coupled with the very many failures of this government.

It is immoral for employers to play fast and loose with employees' lives like this. Just as with the banker's crisis workers were left to pay the price of the pandemic and austerity. We must continue to demand more - to fight for better pay, terms and conditions, better employment rights and a better society.



BBC Politics North

Ahead of the local elections, I was on BBC Politics North this month, discussing a range of topics, from ongoing industrial action, food deserts and food poverty, to the new voter ID laws and the importance of the upcoming local elections.



The new Voter ID laws are a deliberate attack on democracy. As I said on BBC North East and Cumbria, the Government hasn't done enough to inform voters, with one in four people unaware that you now need ID to vote – I discussed this with Richard Moss, you can watch this clip [here](#).

Whilst discussing food deserts and poverty, I pointed out that it is a disgrace that supermarkets continue to take billions in profit whilst people are struggling to afford food – as food inflation is up nearly 20%! You can watch this clip in full [here](#).

The Tories continue to talk about levelling up – yet it is still empty rhetoric – the Jarrow constituency is yet to see a penny. Thirteen years of Tory chaos has stripped billions of pounds from councils, leaving them struggling to deliver vital services for communities. Under the Tories, regional inequality is growing. We need a Labour Government in power to fix the mess made by Tory austerity. You can watch this clip in full [here](#).

You can watch the whole episode in full on BBC iPlayer here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001lf10/politics-north-north-east-and-cumbria-23042023>

The North East Pet Shop

It was great to visit a new small business in Hebburn this month – The North East Pet Shop, based in Victoria Industrial Estate. A brilliant shop to pick up food and toys for our furry friends. It was good to pop along for the grand opening to wish owners Michael and Rachel all the best with their new business endeavour!



Turkish Kebab House Hebburn

I was really pleased to visit a new family run business in Hebburn – Turkish Kebab House. The owners are from Kahramanmaraş where I visited this month on Centre for Turkey Studies delegation to look at the impact of the earthquake. We had a great chat and the restaurant had such a friendly environment and the food looked delicious!



South Tyneside NEU

This month Jarrow and Hebburn Comprehensive school staff went on strike and my team popped along to show solidarity. It was good to meet with South Tyneside NEU to discuss their ongoing dispute with the Government over pay, funding for schools and recruitment and retention issues in the education sector. I fully support their demands and look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.



Tory failure to address social care crisis

Age UK has revealed that around 2.5 million people aged 50+ do not receive the care they need due to a shortage of care workers. The Government has failed – leaving so many vulnerable elderly people deprived of the help they need due to years of Tory neglect and underfunding which has collapsed our social care system.

The Tories answer – to strip even more funds away from the social care budget in England. Read more in one of my regular columns for the Shields Gazette [here](#).



The screenshot shows the top of the 'THE SHIELDS Gazette' website. On the left is a hamburger menu icon. To the right is the site's logo. Below the logo is a red 'BREAKING' banner with the text '1 hour ago Crown Jewels to be displayed across UK landmarks' and a right-pointing arrow. Underneath the banner is a blue 'Opinion' heading. The main article title is 'KATE OSBORNE MP: Tory failure to address social care crisis will leave even more people unable to live in dignity in old age'. The article's opening paragraph reads: 'Up and down the country, so many vulnerable, frail and elderly people are deprived of the help they need because years of Conservative neglect and underfunding have collapsed our social care system.'

My second monthly column in April discussed the Tories latest attacks on democracy. Over the past thirteen years, this callous government has ploughed ahead with its cruel programme of austerity, having a devastating impact on areas like South Tyneside, Gateshead and the North East Region. You can read this in full [here](#).



This screenshot shows another section of the 'THE SHIELDS Gazette' website. It features a red 'BREAKING' banner with the text '2 minutes ago Jerry Springer, legendary talk show host, dead at 79' and a right-pointing arrow. Below the banner is a blue 'Opinion' heading. The article title is 'KATE OSBORNE MP: This government is now attacking democracy'. The opening paragraph states: 'One week today, millions of people across the country will be heading to the polls to vote in this year's local elections, these elections will have a huge impact, both on our local area, and on our country as a whole.'

Earth Day 2023 I was really pleased to have stopped by Boldon and Cleadon Community Library as part of their Earth Day Celebrations. There were some brilliant Earth Day designs made by children in the community, including a Trash

Turtle made by West Boldon Primary School Students to highlight the damage single use plastics have on our planet!



Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Awareness Month

Sarcoma is the third most common cancer in children, teenagers and young adults and we must do more to improve outcomes to give every person with sarcoma the best chance of survival. I met with Sarcoma UK in Parliament this month to learn more about this. Together we can make a change for teenagers and young adults with cancer.



Hebburn Cadets Fundraiser

I was really pleased to have been invited to join Friends of Hebburn Cemetery and Hebburn Sea Cadets fundraiser this month – to raise money for young people from the Cadets so they could take part in the Tall Ships race. It was a great night with music and a raffle – I was even given the honour of drawing the raffle tickets! My thanks go to John for inviting me along.



Prepayment Meters

The Government needs to deal with the ongoing energy crisis, rather than inflict more suffering on communities. The forced installation of prepayment meters should be banned and discriminatory higher chargers for those who have one must be stopped immediately. I wrote a piece for The New Statesman on the new guidelines on enforced prepayment meters – you can read it in full [here](#).

THE NEW STATESMAN

New guidelines on enforced prepayment meters fail to protect the most vulnerable

It's disgusting that the government is allowing companies to continue this unscrupulous practice.

By Kate Osborne

Women and Equalities Select Committee

In the Women and Equalities Select Committee in Parliament this month, as part of our enquiry into Misogyny in Music, I asked Jen Smith the Creative Industry Independent Standards Authority CEO - how a voluntary levy would impact on

reporting inappropriate behaviours such as sexual harassment within the music industry & to what extent it would be independent.

I went on to ask Jen, given the scale of the problem of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviours within the music industry, will CIISA have the resources necessary to tackle a problem of this scale. You can watch the clip of my questions to Jen [here](#).



WASPI Women – Labour Outlook

During the Budget debate on Gender Equality in Parliament a few weeks ago I asked the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen, about the injustice facing the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign. The Minister's response just goes to prove why the WASPI cause is so urgent, and the lengths to which the Tory government will go to neglect women's issues.

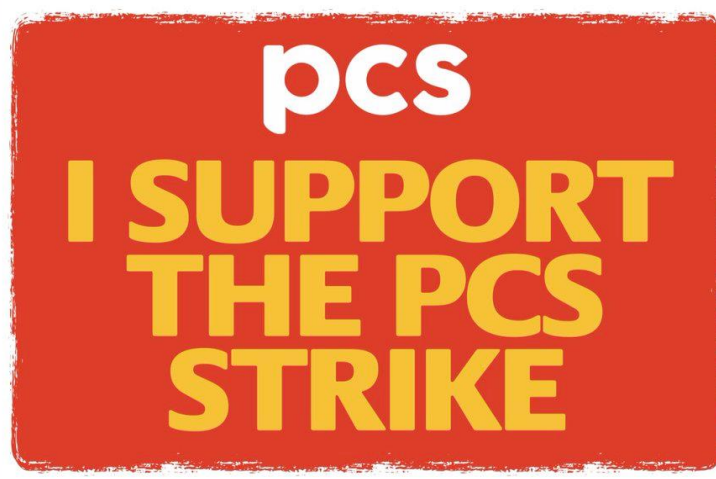
I called for the government to put forward a compensation package for women born in the 1950s who were affected by the changes to their State Pension age.

Ignoring the WASPI campaign is not a one-off – There is a long line of blatant ignorance the Tory government has shown towards women's issues and I will never stop calling this injustice out.

Read my full piece on this in Labour Outlook [here](#).

PCS Strikes

This month we saw 130,000 PCS members on strike in a single day. I stand in absolute solidarity with members in their demand for fair pay and job security. The Government need to listen and get around the table with the union urgently.



RCN Strike

It is absolutely disgraceful that the Government have taken nurses to court to stop them taking industrial action. Instead of legal action against nurses – the Government should be improving its pay offer and listening to nurses! The Royal College of Nursing members have my full support and solidarity.



Nursing

Nurses to cut short strike as court rules second day of action unlawful

Ruling prompts RCN leader Pat Cullen to condemn government for 'taking its own nurses to court'

#RightToStrike

It is excellent news that this month the House of Lords voted down the Government's plans to sack nurses, teachers and firefighters who go on strike. The

Tories must listen to the lords, to workers, and to the public who are all crying out and condemning their Anti-Strikes Bill.

I will continue to fight their callous attempts to roll back the clock on workers rights!



Kate Osborne MP

@KateOsborneMP

...

Excellent news.

[@Conservatives](#) need to listen to the Lords and all of the country and stop pushing these ridiculous plans to restrict workers [#RightToStrike](#)



Trades Union Congress @The_TUC · Apr 26

BREAKING 🚨🚨: The House of Lords has just VOTED DOWN plans to sack nurses, teachers and firefighters who go on strike.

[Show this thread](#)

South Shields Football Club

Huge congratulations to South Shields Football Club on winning the Northern League Premier Division and on their promotion to National League North. As a tribute to Geoff Thompson, Kevin Phillips and all the players involved and their role in this brilliant achievement – I was proud to table this Parliamentary Early Day Motion to further extend my congratulations.

South Shields Football Club

EDM 1071: tabled on 18 April 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 9 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House congratulates South Shields Football Club on winning the Northern League Premier Division title and promotion to National League North; pays tribute to owner and Chairman Geoff Thompson, manager Kevin Phillips and the players for their role in helping the club to the Northern League Premier Division title; recognises the efforts of all the staff at the club and their contribution towards helping South Shields FC secure promotion; acknowledges the club's significant growth and success since Geoff Thompson became involved in 2015, with three consecutive promotions achieved as well as a number of cup victories, including the FA Vase at Wembley in 2017; fully praises the progression of the club which plays an important community role in South Tyneside; and wishes everyone at South Shields FC every success in next season's National League North.

Section 21 Evictions

I signed my name to a Motion calling on the Government to proceed with their manifesto promise to abolish no fault evictions (section 21). No fault evictions are increasingly being used by Landlords – with eviction threats rising by 69%. It is appalling that vulnerable people face being made homeless during a cost of living crisis through no fault of their own.

Section 21 evictions

EDM 1090: tabled on 24 April 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 24 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House urgently calls on the Government to proceed with their 2019 manifesto and Queen's Speech promises to abolish section 21 of the Housing Act 1988, otherwise known as no fault evictions; notes that section 21 evictions are increasingly used by landlords, with the ONS finding that threats of eviction using section 21 notices rose by 69 per cent, while instances of actual evictions more than doubled, rising by 143 per cent; further notes media reports which show that 40 families a day have been threatened with no-fault evictions since the Government undertook to ban them in 2019; highlights the huge pressure on social housing with over one million waiting for a home; condemns the Government's failure to fulfil its promise to ban no fault evictions, especially with the added urgency of a global pandemic and then a cost of living crisis; further condemns the fact that vulnerable people are potentially being made homeless; welcomes the statement by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on 15 February 2023 that the Government will legislate in this Parliament to abolish Section 21 no fault evictions; and urges the Government to stop delaying and to act now.

Housing Conditions in the Private Rented Sector

I've been contacted by high numbers of constituents who are living in damp, cold and mouldy properties. I will continue to do all I can to support residents and calling out housing companies to demand they make safe their rental properties. I've signed a Motion calling on the Government to implement the recommendations in the Citizen's Advice report - Damp, Cold and Full of Mould – which calls for strengthening of minimum efficiency standards in legislation & calls for Awaab's law which places a strict timeline on landlords to deal with damp and mould to be extended to the private sector.

Housing conditions in the private rented sector

EDM 1045: tabled on 17 April 2023

Tabled in the 2022-23 session.

This motion has been signed by 14 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House acknowledges the report by Citizen's Advice entitled Damp, cold and full of mould: The reality of housing in the private rented sector; is alarmed by the finding that 2.7 million renting households, including 1.6 million children, are currently living in cold, damp or mouldy homes; calls on the Government to implement the report's recommendations to strengthen minimum energy efficiency standards in legislation; and further calls for Awaab's Law, which will place strict timelines on landlords to deal with issues such as damp and mould, to be extended to the private sector.

Casework wins

My office continues to work extremely hard supporting Jarrow constituents with a huge range of issues. If there is anything that I can do to support you with any issues – please do contact my office and myself and my team will do all we can to help! Below are just a few of our recent casework wins:



Advice Surgeries:

I hold regular advice surgeries to speak with constituents about issues affecting them. My upcoming surgeries in May are Friday 12th May 12pm to 1pm at Hebburn Helps and Friday 26th May 5pm to 6pm in Fellgate and Hedworth Ward. My surgeries are by appointment only – so if you would like to book a slot, please email kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk

General Election Fighting Fund:

You can help with our General election plans by making a donation online here: https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/keep-jarrows-red-flag-flying-2?source=direct_link& Donations will go towards the next general election campaign – 10% of all donations will go to our local foodbanks. (Donation policy can be read in full via my website)

Stay up to date with my work via my social media channels:

Website: www.kate-osborne.co.uk

Twitter: [@KateOsborneMP](https://twitter.com/KateOsborneMP)

Facebook: [@KateOsborneMP](https://www.facebook.com/KateOsborneMP)

Instagram: [@KateOsborneMP](https://www.instagram.com/KateOsborneMP)

Tiktok: [@kate.osborne.mp](https://www.tiktok.com/@kate.osborne.mp)

If you need assistance with anything, please don't hesitate to contact me via kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk or by calling my office on 0191 466 1509.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Osborne MP