



DR PHILLIP LEE MP Working hard for Bracknell constituency Issue 41—December 2015

Dr Lee speaks about Mental Health and Broadmoor Hospital

On 9th December, Dr Phillip Lee, the MP for Bracknell and practising GP, contributed to a thoughtful and broadly non-partisan debate in the House of Commons on the crucial subject of mental health. Dr Lee, who in his medical work encounters patients with mental health issues, spoke, amongst other things, about the societal drivers behind the increase in diagnoses of mental health conditions.



Dr Lee also made special mention of the role of Broadmoor Hospital, which is situated in the Bracknell Constituency and is one of the country's leading mental health institutions. He said *'My constituency is proud to host the pre-eminent high-security hospital, Broadmoor. Broadmoor hospital is widely renowned internationally. It is also being redeveloped over the next few years ... Broadmoor is not a prison, but if its recidivism rate was replicated across the prison service, we would all be extremely happy. Its 420 nurses and 12 consultants do remarkably good work. It is challenging work dealing with some very difficult cases—the type of cases we see in our newspapers. I am very proud that that hospital is based in my constituency, and I am particularly proud of a society that places such emphasis on treating people as patients, not as criminals.'*

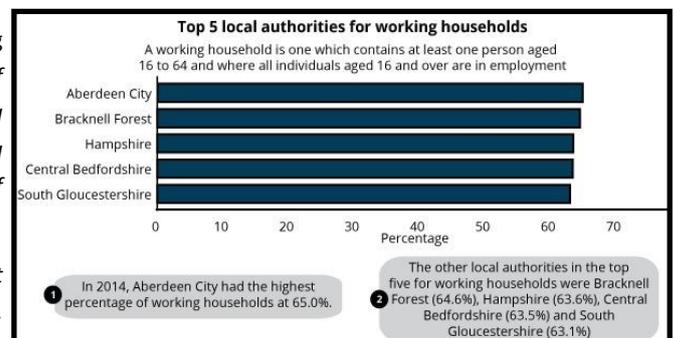
Dr Phillip Lee contributing to a debate on Mental Health

Dr Lee questions cabinet minister about working households

On 7th December, Dr Phillip Lee questioned the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith, about workless households. Speaking in the House of Commons, Dr Lee asked: *'What progress he has made on reducing the number of people in workless households?'* To which the Secretary of State replied *'When we took office, almost one in five households had no one in work and around 1.4 million people had been on benefits for most of the previous decade. Since 2010 the number of workless households has fallen by over 680,000 to its lowest level since records began.'*

In a follow up question, Phillip spoke of the high level of working households in the local area: *'My constituency covers the major part of Bracknell Forest. In 2014 it had the second highest percentage of working households in the country. Does my right hon. Friend agree that continuing to encourage households into work is one of the most effective ways of improving the life chances of everyone in that family?'*

Iain Duncan Smith responded by saying: *'My hon. Friend is right that growing up in a working family is crucial for the life chances of children. When this Government took office, there were more than 2.5 million children growing up in workless households. That has fallen by nearly half a million since 2010. By targeting worklessness, the five new life chance measures that we have introduced will make an enormous difference to children's lives. I understand that there are now almost no workless households in the south-east.'*



<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lmac/workless-households-for-regions-across-the-uk/2014/stb-workless-households-2014.html#tab-Working-and-mixed-households>

MP “Cuts The Ribbon” at relocated Bracknell Post Office

Bracknell MP Dr Phillip Lee “cut the ribbon” to mark the official opening of the relocated Bracknell Crown Post Office at its smart, modern, welcoming location inside WHSmith. The High Street branch had to relocate due to the major redevelopment of Bracknell Post Office, which requires the demolition of the premises. Post Office Ltd negotiated with WHSmith to move into its branch at Princess Square Shopping Centre, 10 Princess Square, Bracknell, in which there is now a designated Post Office area located at the back of the store.

The relocated branch remains a Crown Post Office, directly managed by Post Office Ltd, but it is hosted within the WHSmith store. All Post Office staff transferred across and the full range of products and services are still available. Dr Phillip Lee MP, said: *“What a great early Christmas present for Bracknell – a modern, new-look Post Office which is now open 8 hours longer each week. This is a well-designed branch and fits in perfectly into the WHSmith store, with plenty of room for both Post Office and WHSmith customers. Bracknell residents and businesses are delighted to have retained a Post Office in the town centre.”*



Dr Lee cuts the ribbon at newly opened Post Office

Dementia Group celebrates Christmas with Dr Phillip Lee

In December, Dr Phillip Lee called in at the Memory Cafe Christmas Party organised by the Alzheimer’s Society at the Coopers Hill Community Centre. The cafe, which is primarily run by local volunteers, is held every second Friday of the month from 11am to 12:30pm and gives an opportunity for people living with dementia, and their carers, to meet in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

During the Christmas party, Dr Lee took part in a number of the quizzes, including a ‘Name That Face’ round, where they were asked to identify photos of leading celebrities. Speaking about the work of the Alzheimer’s Society, Dr Lee said: *“It is so important for people living with dementia, and those who are looking after them, to continue to lead as normal a life as possible. This type of regular meeting offers a perfect combination of memory-enhancing games and an opportunity to chat with people who are having the same experiences.”*

Geraldine Durrant, who is the support group facilitator for the Alzheimer’s Society thanked Dr Lee for coming along, and also commented: *“I know how much all of the people with dementia and their carers value these Memory Cafes. However, they could not take place without the unstinting support of our volunteers. My thanks go out to them and I would also encourage anyone who would like to come along, either as a person with dementia, carer or volunteer to contact us on (0118) 959 6482.”*



Phillip at the Memory Cafe

Website of the month

In addition to the Memory Cafes, the Alzheimer’s Society also runs *Singing for the Brain* sessions in Bracknell at the Holy Trinity Church and at All Saints Church on Norreys Avenue in Wokingham. To find out more about these sessions and the vital work the Alzheimer’s Society carries out as the UK’s leading Dementia support and research charity, please visit their website: www.alzheimers.org.uk

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