



# Suella Fernandes MP

MP for Fareham, Locks Heath, Park Gate, Portchester, Sarisbury, Titchfield, Whiteley and Warsash



## Welcome

I would like to thank you all for the kind messages I received following the terror attack on Westminster on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. My thoughts are with the innocent people who were killed or injured and their families and PC Keith Palmer who died in service, protecting democracy and our Parliament.

Thank you to all the police, security and emergency services who acted so quickly and professionally to contain the situation. The 23<sup>rd</sup> March was a poignant day and after observing a minute's silence we heard very moving tributes to PC Palmer, the victims and all the professionals who worked hard to keep us safe. If you would like to donate to PC Palmer's family, you can do so at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/keith-palmer>



## In Parliament



### Meeting the Schools Minister Nick Gibb MP

Hampshire is currently the third lowest funded education authority in the country and so the changes to the schools national funding formula will see a net gain to local schools in Fareham of nearly £1 million. However some schools have contacted me to say they will lose money under the plans. I therefore held a useful meeting with Schools Minister, Nick Gibb MP and Leadership Teams at Portchester Community School and Henry Cort School to discuss their concerns. I was very pleased that the Government is listening to all schools affected by the changes and will review the consultation documents shortly.

### Family Justice Bill

This month I presented a Family Justice Bill to Parliament, calling for better enforcement of Child Arrangement Orders, a rebuttable presumption of shared parenting and for a Commission to make recommendations of reform of our out of date family justice system. I am pleased that the Bill passed the first reading, with the second reading due to take place in May. You can watch my speech at 13:42:00: <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/044973cd-e91b-40d8-96c3-dd51f5676078?agenda=True>

### The Spring Budget

I was delighted that The Spring Budget reaffirmed the strength of the British economy with upgrades in growth forecasts, wage rises and that debt, as a proportion of national income, will fall from 2018. There were important changes to support our health and social care system, give more children the chance to go to a good or outstanding school, ensure people have the right skills they need to succeed and invest in cutting edge technology, infrastructure and innovation. I was interviewed on The World at One today and you can listen to the interview on iPlayer at 15:50 onwards: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08gwfmw#play>

Many constituents have contacted me about Class 4 National Insurance Contributions. A Statement from the Chancellor has confirmed that reforms to Class 4 National Insurance Contributions announced at The Spring Budget 2017 will not go ahead. The Chancellor has stated that honouring the Manifesto Commitments made at the last election must be a priority and that therefore all tax-lock and spending commitments made for this Parliament must be honoured.

### Article 50 triggered

The Prime Minister has given official notice under Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, formally beginning the UK's departure from the European Union. The letter was delivered to the European Council President, Donald Tusk, by the British Ambassador to the EU, Sir Tim Barrow, on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Parliament now begins the process of enacting The Great Repeal Bill. Find out more at: <https://secondreading.uk/elections/brexit-what-happens-now/>





Hosting my spring Coffee Morning



Young Leaders at Locks Heath Free Church



Celebrating International Women's Day



Meeting Soroptimists International



Solent Business Forum lunch



Locks Heath Probus visit Parliament

## Coffee Morning

I had a good discussion with local residents at my spring Coffee Morning at Titchfield Community Centre. I hold regular events like this to give you a chance to raise issues of national and local importance. Details of the summer event will be posted on my website soon.

## Solent Business Forum

A fascinating discussion on the 4th Industrial was had at the Solent Business Forum lunch with Alan Mak MP. It was great to welcome so many local businesses and we had very fruitful talks on local enterprise. If you are a local business and would like to join us for the next lunch in June with Lord Digby Jones, former Chairman of the CBI, please do email me:

[suella@suellafernandes.co.uk](mailto:suella@suellafernandes.co.uk)

## Locks Heath Free Church

It was great to visit the team at Locks Heath Free Church and hear of the inspirational work by Mark and Cathy Madavan. A special well done must go to all the Young Leaders at The Edge for their service to our community.

## International Women's Day

I was proud to join other female MPs from all parties on International Women's Day. We all held up our own 'number' in Central Lobby and I am the 385th woman ever elected to Parliament. I was delighted to then meet the Fareham branch of Soroptimists International at the weekend to discuss women in Parliament.

## Nursery Meeting

A number of childcare providers have contacted me to raise concerns over the Government's proposals to increase free childcare to 30 hours per week. I have therefore organised a group meeting to give childcare providers the opportunity to discuss concerns. The meeting will be held at Sarisbury Green Community Centre on Friday 28th April from 2.00-3.00pm in the River Room.

If you would like to attend, or have any questions, please email my Constituency Assistant, Sarah Child, at [sarah.child@parliament.uk](mailto:sarah.child@parliament.uk), who will be happy to help.

*Suella*

## What constituents say:

"Thank you for organising the Fareham Schools Debating Competition— our students had an amazing time"

"Well done on your work trying to get better use of the community hospital, it is an excellent facility which is vastly underused..."

## Surgeries & Events

Please call my office to find out how to arrange an appointment:

Fareham Surgery, Friday 7th April 2017.

Childcare Providers Meeting, Friday 28th April 2017, Sarisbury Green Community Centre, 14:00-15:00pm.

## Get in touch

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