



Parliamentary News

Dawn Primarolo MP

Working Hard for Bristol South

Winter 2009



TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

By joining forces with key organisations, Dawn is helping to tackle youth unemployment in our city. Dawn recently called a summit bringing together central figures in Bristol to help ensure joint working to address this important issue.

Dawn says, "Being out of work can be incredibly worrying, and I support the range of measures the Government has put in place to help people who have become unemployed during the recession. Extra support is available for those who need it, and the Government will continue to invest to get people back into employment. In particular, we must ensure that young people are provided with the skills, information and support necessary to find a job."



The new Skills Academy in Hengrove will help young people gain qualifications and skills



Backing sustainable travel at Knowle Park Primary's new bike & scooter shed

Action on Climate Change

Dawn has joined the high profile "10:10" and "tck tck" campaigns in the fight against global warming and is encouraging others to do the same. World leaders are meeting in Copenhagen during December to negotiate a new agreement on climate change and the UK will be calling for a strong deal that will limit global temperature increases to 2°C.

Commenting, Dawn says, "As well as the important events on the international stage and work at Government level, such as the publication of the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan in July, we can all play our part locally and individually by using less energy in our daily lives. Choosing to walk, cycle or take the bus instead of driving, as well as switching to low energy light bulbs and turning down our thermostats, are actions we can all take to help make a difference".

News in Brief

Windmill Hill City Farm

As a founding member, Dawn was very concerned to hear about the financial difficulties at Windmill Hill City Farm. Dawn has been in touch with the Farm's management to offer her assistance, and joined hundreds of local people to pledge £25 to help save the Farm.

FareShare Visit

Dawn recently visited FareShare, a food redistribution charity with a base in Bedminster. Retailers donate their quality surplus food and FareShare ensures it reaches vulnerable people who need it. Millions of tonnes of food are wasted in the UK every year and Dawn believes FareShare's work is vital in addressing this problem.

Child Trust Fund

Dawn welcomed the new £250 Child Trust Fund payment for seven year olds introduced this autumn. The payment is designed to strengthen the saving habit and ensure all children will have access to a financial asset when they reach age 18. So far, over 6,000 children in Bristol South have a Child Trust Fund account.

Issues around The Square

On a recent visit to The Square in Knowle Park, Dawn spoke with residents who had some concerns about anti-social behaviour, especially regarding reckless driving in the area. Dawn undertook a local survey to find out more about the problems and has been following this up with the Police and City Council.

Paternity Leave

Dawn was pleased when the Government announced plans for changes to maternity and paternity leave which would allow a woman to transfer the final six months of her maternity leave to the baby's father. Dawn believes this greater flexibility would be welcomed by parents and parents-to-be in Bristol South.

New 91 Bus

After joining a community campaign in Knowle West calling for the reinstatement of the 89 bus route, Dawn was delighted when First eventually agreed to introduce a new 91 bus to serve the area. Dawn has also joined residents in asking questions of First about the withdrawal of the 52 bus service from Inns Court.

CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

Dawn has been busy visiting local schools this autumn term. As well as attending the official opening of the Bridge Learning Campus in Hartcliffe, where pupils are thriving in their new school buildings, Dawn has visited Headley Park Primary, Knowle Park Primary and Hartcliffe Children's Centre too. Dawn also joined Schools Minister, Vernon Coaker, on a visit to Victoria Park Primary and saw the nationally acclaimed 'Every Child a Reader' programme in action.

Dawn says, "It's always great to see first hand the excellent work of our teachers and the impact on our

children's progress and development. New school buildings and funding for important literacy schemes like 'Every Child a Reader' are really making a difference in Bristol South."



Dawn joins in a reading class at Victoria Park Primary

St Peter's Hospice



Dawn outside St Peter's Hospice in Knowle

Like many local residents, Dawn was very disappointed when St Peter's Hospice announced its decision to withdraw services from Bristol South and move all in-patient care to Brentry.

Dawn says, "I'm very keen to see hospice services retained in our part of the city. I don't think it's fair to ask Bristol South residents who are visiting relatives to face the long journey to Brentry at what is a very difficult time for those involved. I will be seeking to find a solution with the Hospice and the local NHS."

7 ways to contact Dawn

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