

# Vaughan Gething AM/AC

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Aelod Cynulliad dros Dde Caerdydd a Phenarth



## Monthly Report

As we approach the festive period the shops are getting busier as people look forward to Christmas. We can expect to see an increase in the number of shoppers over the coming weeks as shops open late. Whilst the shopping spree can be exciting there is another side to the Christmas shopping chaos that largely goes unnoticed. I am talking about the abuse that shop workers suffer.

Last month I was pleased to show my support for USDAW's (Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers) Freedom from Fear Campaign and Respect for Shopworkers Week. The aim is to make sure that 'Abuse is not part of the job' is heard loud and clear during the busy Christmas shopping period. USDAW's Freedom from Fear Survey 2016 revealed that a half of all shop workers were verbally abused over the past year, with 29% being threatened with violence and 8% suffering physical assaults. A third of those suffering physical violence did not report the incident to their employer. The interim results of this year's survey indicates significant increases on last year's survey with abuse and assaults up by 25% and threats increased by 38%.

This situation is unacceptable. People who provide a service to the public deserve to be able to go about their jobs without the fear of abuse and violence. It is therefore incredibly important that, as part of this campaign we work together to encourage people to report any abuse or violence that they experience so that we can push employers to take real action against it. Over the coming

weeks I will be visiting shops across the constituency to talk to workers about their experiences and to highlight this serious issue. I hope that people remember that shopworkers are there to serve us. They are doing their job for our benefit, let them do it in safety with our respect.

At Christmas our thoughts turn to those who are less well off than ourselves. We also remember the tremendous services and support that groups and organisations provide to those in need. I have previously visited my local Neighbourhood Food Collection at Tesco in Penarth and St Mellons to see and support the good work of the Trussell Trust. At the height of the financial crisis in 2008 the Trussell Trust was only giving three day emergency food to 25,899 people across the UK. In 2016 the Trussell Trust provided 1,182,954 three day emergency food supplies and support to people in crisis. Of these, over 430,000 went to children.

It is always heart-warming to see so many others thinking of those less fortunate than themselves and making donations to those in need. Gestures like this truly demonstrate our continuing capacity for togetherness, community and charity. In many supermarkets food items are collected year round, not just at Christmas. I would urge all those that are able, to make a donation. It really does make a difference.

More information can be found at: [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org).

## **Natwest Bank Closures**

I am extremely disappointed by the announcement that Natwest Bank intends to close 20 of its branches across Wales, including 1 in Cardiff South. Natwest has said its decision to close its bank in Rumney had to do with low and falling levels of use.

Rumney has a large elderly population who could be seriously affected by these proposals to withdraw over the counter banking facilities, as will the businesses on the high street. It will also be a massive blow for employees at the Bank, especially in the run up to Christmas. Myself and Stephen will be meeting with Natwest as a matter of urgency to discuss our concerns over the plans.

## **Shire Hall 10th Anniversary Celebrations**

Last week I joined the staff and residents of Shire Hall, along with their friends and family, to celebrate their 10th Anniversary. The Lord Mayor, Cllr Bob Derbyshire and Hallmark Care Homes MD Avnish Goyal, also joined in the celebrations.



I have previously been shown around the home, which has recently won an award for their Dementia Friendly design, and I can truly understand why! The home has a warm, friendly atmosphere which puts you at ease as soon as you step inside. I'd like to thank the staff and residents for inviting me and look forward to returning for a visit in the future!

## **Eastern High - Inspection Success!**

I would like to congratulate the pupils, staff, governors and parents at Eastern High School on

the publication of their most recent Estyn Inspection Report. The report has highlighted the 'strong progress' which has been made, with increases in attendance and performance. This is a brilliant step in the right direction and I would like to wish the school all the best in moving forward, especially when moving to the new site in the New Year.

## **Train Work Live Campaign a Success!**

In my role as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services I was delighted to announce that the GP Recruitment Train Work Live campaign has been a success – all GP training places in Wales have been filled.

The Wales Deanery has confirmed the appointment of 144 GP training places, surpassing the 136 places available. This compares to 121 places that were filled in 2016 – an increase of 19%. The excellent news follows the launch of an international and UK-wide Welsh Labour Government campaign to promote Wales as an excellent place for doctors - including GPs - to train, work and live.

The campaign includes two financial incentives schemes: a targeted scheme offering a £20,000 incentive to GP trainees taking up posts in specified areas with a trend of low fill rates, and a universal scheme offering a one off payment for all GP trainees to cover the cost of one sitting of their final examinations. The campaign was recently extended to encourage other healthcare professionals to come and train in Wales.

This is great news for Wales and the Welsh NHS. It shows that the Train Work Live campaign has been a huge success. Trainee doctors are seeing the benefits of training in Wales and voting with their feet.