

e-News

From James Brokenshire MP

Week commencing 12 May 2013

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Next Advice Surgery Dates:

* 17 May 2013 (North Cray)

* 31 May 2013 (Sidcup)

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Keeping up progress with Queen Mary's plan



James Brokenshire has underlined the need to maintain progress with plans to strengthen Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup during a discussion with the new NHS Special Administrator responsible for hospitals in South East London.

Caroline Taylor has recently taken charge of running the heavily indebted South London Healthcare NHS Trust and implementing planned reforms to local hospitals.

Proposals for Lewisham Hospital are currently subject to a legal challenge and reforms which might impact on Lewisham have been put on hold pending the outcome of a forthcoming judicial review. James emphasized to the Administrator that changes at Queen Mary's did not have a direct bearing on services at Lewisham and it was important to press on with plans for the Sidcup hospital.

Commenting James said

"The current court challenges may have caused changes at some other hospitals to be suspended, but we need to get on with the Queen Mary's plan. Work to secure the long term future for Queen Mary's Hospital is advancing, but it's important that focus and momentum are maintained."

News in Brief

Policing Plans

James Brokenshire met the Bexley Borough Police Commander on Friday to discuss changes to local policing aimed at putting more officers on the front-line. Bexley is one of the first London boroughs to adopt the new local policing model which will see new community policing teams being established. Superintendent Peter Ayling told James that the new neighbourhood policing teams will be introduced in June with the aim of cutting crime and improving the service provided to the public.

Jimmy Mizen Memorial Service

James and Cathy Brokenshire joined several hundred people at St George's Cathedral last Friday evening to mark the fifth anniversary of the murder of Jimmy Mizen. The memorial service included songs and messages from friends and family remembering Jimmy's life. Other families affected by crimes of violence also laid candles in memory of their loved ones. "The service was poignant, moving but uplifting" James said. "Our thoughts and prayer are with Barry, Margaret and the rest of the Mizen family."

Tightening Immigration Controls

James Brokenshire has welcomed news that the Government is to introduce additional measures to clamp down on the abuse of public services by people from overseas. The new Immigration Bill announced in the Queen's Speech will also contain measures to make it harder for people to prevent their removal with spurious appeals and make clear that foreign national offenders should be deported, except in extraordinary circumstances. Commenting James said:

"We want this country to attract people who will add to our national life, but those who will not should be deterred. I welcome these additional measures to prevent illegal immigrants accessing services they're not entitled to and ensure legal protections aren't abused by those trying to avoid removal from this country."