

# Lee Scott MP

## Westminster Report

Summer 2007

### Local MP Presents Hospital Petition to Parliament

At the end of March Lee Scott presented a petition from those opposing the threat of cuts in services at King Georges Hospital to Parliament. The petition carries over 5100 signatures from local people who are opposed to cut backs in our NHS services.

This petition is an important part of wide ranging campaign to protect our local hospitals. Questions on the issue have been asked in the House of Commons, including to the Prime Minister. There was a full debate in Westminster Hall. Also Iain Duncan Smith has presented a Parliamentary petition on Whipps Cross Hospital.

Lee has held a number of special open forum meetings on the future of local NHS services to allow residents to express their views and hear from representatives of Redbridge PCT and Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust.

Commenting after presenting the petition in the Common chamber Mr Scott said 'Any reduction or loss of service will be unacceptable to local people. At a time when our population is rising it makes no sense to cut local NHS services and in reality we need more hospital services not less.'

Mr Scott has also arranged for the Ilford Recorder's 'Hands off our Hospital' petition presentation to Downing Street. This has over 8000 signatures from local supporters of the campaign to protect local NHS services.

### Political Discussions in Israel

Lee Scott took time out from a private family holiday in Israel to join Conservative Parliamentary colleagues for part of their official visit to the country. A series of meetings were held with senior politicians from across the political spectrum in the Knesset and then with representatives of the Palestinian President. There was a useful exchange of views on the current situation in both Israel itself and more widely across the Middle East.

Mr Scott went on to give an in depth interview to the English language Jerusalem Post newspaper. He praised the effective and high quality of education for autistic children and was impressed by how early an age the condition is diagnosed in Israel. Lee commented 'There are a great many lessons about autistic children that Britain can learn from Israel and I am delighted that they are willing to share this expertise.'

### Referendum on European Treaties

The German Presidency is promoting negotiations for a new European Treaty based on the substance of the rejected European Constitutional Treaty. Lee believes that it should be the decision for the British people in a referendum whether or not to sign up to this expansion of powers for the EU.

### Planning Changes Move Power in the Wrong Direction

The Government's proposals for new centralised planning rules will strip local communities of any meaningful say over new airports, motorways, incinerators, rubbish dumps and the like. A new centralised planning quango will have members appointed for eight year fixed terms and so they will have no need to take public opinion into account.

The planning system is in urgent need of reform because centralised and regional targets and an excess of conflicting announcements have tied the system up in red tape. The decisions in the planning system need to be taken at as local a level as is possible, residents' views given their full weight and the process must be democratic and accountable



Lee leading the debate on educational provision for kids with autism.



Hospital petition Sign Up at Sainsburys in Barking



Political meeting in Israel



Lee has paid visits to many local schools



Lee is an active supporter of the interests of the cab trade



Lee signs for the Holocaust Memorial Trust



Speaking in the Commons



At event for the New Redbridge Wind Orchestra



Lee and autism campaigner Ivan Corea



Improvement in local tube services are needed

## Lee Secures Key Meeting for Autism Campaigner

Lee Scott got involved with autism issues because constituents Ivan and Charika Corea who have a son with ASD approached him for help. Campaigners are urging the DfES to address the failure of some secondary schools in coming up with educational strategies in dealing with autistic students; they are concerned about bullying of autistic children, the lack of recreational activities and poor further & higher education. Estimates of the proportion of people with autistic spectrum disorders total 587,900 and of these 133,500 are under 18 years of age. According to UK researchers, autism may affect up to one in 100 children.

Since 1997 more than ninety special schools have closed and those remaining have fewer pupils despite a steep rise in the number of children diagnosed as having special educational needs. In May 2006 the National Autistic Society launched its first ever education campaign, 'make school make sense'. This led the NAS to call for three things, the right school for every child, the right training for every teacher and the right approach for every school

In April Lee and campaigner Ivan Corea had a private meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss the educational provision for kids with autism.

### Keeping Up To Date

You can follow Lee Scott's activities in Parliament on the helpful and independent web site They Work for You. It covers speeches, voting record and questions.

Go to:-

[http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/lee\\_scott/ilford\\_north](http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/lee_scott/ilford_north)

You can also navigate to Lee's own web site:-

[www.leescott.co.uk](http://www.leescott.co.uk)

## Commercial Whaling

Lee Scott has joined many other MPs is calling on the UK Government to work closely with other international partners to oppose any moves to return to commercial whaling. There has been a relentless increase in number of whales killed by Japan, Iceland and Norway and their bringing pressure to overturn the moratorium on commercial whaling and the ban on international trade in whale products. The Japanese government is using aid to gain support for the removal of the ban from Caribbean and African nations. It is vital to remember that population levels of certain whale species worldwide remain at biologically unsustainable levels and commercial whaling could drive them to extinction.

### Public Transport for Carers

Lee Scott is calling on Transport for London, with its forthcoming introduction of smart Oyster cards, to introduce a scheme to allow a carer accompanying a disabled person to travel for free. The high cost of transport paid by carers while travelling in London with those for whom they care can in some cases mean that a disabled person can be prevented from travelling, despite having a free pass for themselves. Various schemes in Scotland, Bristol and Gloucestershire have been able to address this problem with considerable success.



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\* Ring this number if you wish to make an appointment to see me at my advice surgery

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