

Alan Campbell MP

Community News August 2020



Good afternoon

I do hope that you and your family continue to stay safe and well.

Please find my latest update below.

If you need to get in touch please call 0191 2571927 or email campbellal@parliament.uk

You can also find useful information on my website at www.alancampbellmp.co.uk or on Facebook at;

https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI_cGhOnsm_TvNnVuiYMhiLm

I continue to write my fortnightly column for the News Guardian, you can access these [here](#).

I hope that you find this update useful.

With all best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

Local concerns over education



I would first like to congratulate all local students who have recently received their exam results.

Despite clear warnings and the evidence from Scotland the Government pressed ahead with the application of an algorithm to standardise A Level results which caused an outcry when some of our best schools and students found their marks had been downgraded.

I was made aware of concerns by headteachers even before the publication of results and immediately lobbied ministers to put things right. A strong coalition of schools, parent and students forced the government to u turn but at the cost of a lot of distress to young people.

[You can read my News Guardian column on the fiasco here.](#)

Unfortunately, the problems within education do not end there. During the pandemic when schools were looking to reopen, the Government largely negated their responsibility and left the hard decisions to individual Headteachers and Governing Bodies. In our area, which still has a three-tier system, there was no advice from Government at all, despite lobbying by myself and the local authority.

With the beginning of term fast approaching, we are still seeing the Government flip-flopping over safety measures such as the wearing of masks. I'm pressing the Government for further clarity on behalf of local schools and pupils. What is clear, is that local schools and teachers are doing the best job possible in making sure our children get the education they deserve.

Self Employed Income Support Scheme

Phase 2



The second phase of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme is now open for applications.

If you were eligible for the first grant and can confirm to HMRC that your business has been adversely affected on or after 14 July 2020, you can make a claim for a second and final grant from 17 August 2020.

You can make a claim for the second and final grant if you're eligible, even if you did not make a claim for the first grant.

Find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

I am very concerned however at the looming jobs crisis across the UK as a result of the government's withdrawal of furlough from businesses in struggling sectors, and the high proportion of people working in these sectors in our area.

Retail has been the hardest hit by mass redundancies since the coronavirus pandemic struck, with manufacturing and aviation also badly affected. Tens of thousands of job losses have been announced and more redundancies are expected in these sectors, yet they have received no tailored support.

Here in the North East, 10% of the workforce work in retail, 11% in manufacturing and with many jobs linked to aviation and the travel industry it is becoming clear that the impact of decreasing government support is likely to be felt far more deeply by some areas of the UK. I am joining with other MP's from our region to call for a further package of targeted support.

Tackling anti-social behaviour



I have welcomed the news that Northumbria Police have joined forces with partners to tackle an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour along the Metro network.

Named Operation Hermes the two-day initiative will see officers team up with colleagues from Metro operators Nexus, local councils, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and British Transport Police to target troublemakers and help ensure commuters feel safe.

The increased activity, which gets under way this weekend, ahead of the Bank Holiday, follows concerns from travellers relating to anti-social behaviour, including reports linked to young people gathering in groups in and around stations.

A wide range of tactics will be deployed across a number of locations, at times when there has been an increase in incidents being reported and will include increased engagement to steer youths away from using the stations as social hubs.

I understand enforcement action will be used where necessary, and as well as a visible policing presence, plain-clothed officers will be travelling the Metro lines keeping a watchful eye.

As part of Northumbria Police's continued commitment to tackling serious and organised crime, there will also be targeted search operations at some stations.

Over the past few months there have been a number of incidents anti-social behaviour including one in Shiremoor. I'd like to thank residents for their determination to tackle this and the police and local authority who have worked together to put measures in place to put a stop to this. Let me be clear, there is no place for anti-social behaviour in our area. If you have an issue in your area please do not hesitate to get in touch as action can be and will be taken.

Norma Redfearn re-selected as Labour's Mayoral Candidate



Congratulations to Norma Redfearn, the elected Mayor of North Tyneside on being re-selected as Labour's Mayoral Candidate for the elections in May 2021.

Norma has a proven record of strong leadership not only in improving local services and delivering regeneration but has provided exceptional leadership during the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. I look forward to working with Norma going forward to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Reopening of local attractions



There has been a great deal of confusion over the reopening of local attractions such as Tynemouth Aquarium and Whitley Bay Ice Rink.

Although safety has to be the number one priority it has not helped local businesses that there has been confusing and at times conflicting advice from Government.

I have been tabling parliamentary questions and contacting Ministers on behalf of both Tynemouth Aquarium and Whitley Bay Ice Rink which are now open

in a Covid safe way. I am pleased that both well loved local attractions have now been able to open. I would also like to thank all those local people who got in touch with me to campaign for their reopening.

Newcastle United Takeover



Following the news that the Newcastle United takeover had fallen through a huge number of local people contacted me to raise their concerns about the actions of the Premier League.

I joined all regional MP's in writing to the Chief Executive of Premier League and the Sports Minister to highlight the valid concerns that had been raised over the handing of the situation. I recently received a response from Richard Masters, Chief Executive of the Premier League, [you can view a copy of the response here](#). I am waiting for a reply from the Sports Minister and will update you when I get that reply.

North Shields and Fish Quay Masterplan



Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn recently launched the council's 'Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay' masterplan.

The draft North Shields masterplan will be used to consult with residents, businesses and stakeholders and outlines nine separate projects for the town centre and Fish Quay to be developed.

These include enhancing the appearance of key areas, creating a new transport hub and interchange and town square to host events, markets and performances, improved walking and cycling routes in the town centre, a new

cultural quarter and riverside walkway linking the town centre to the Fish Quay.

Following on from the award-winning successful regeneration of Whitley Bay this exciting development signals a new direction for North Shields. [For further information see here.](#)

Happy Birthday to Metro

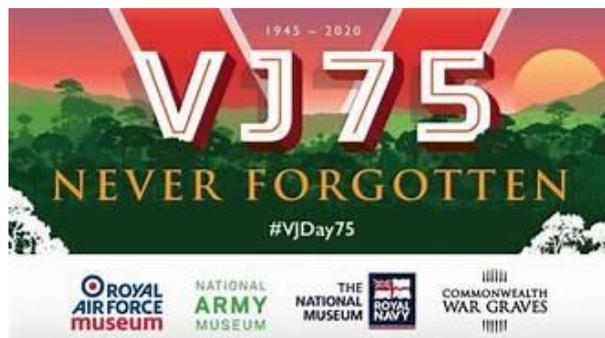


I was pleased to congratulate Metro earlier this month as it celebrated it's 40th anniversary.

Metro is a vital part of our public transport system and our local economy which has carried over 1.5 billion passengers over the last 40 years.

We can now look forward to a bright future for Metro with funding in place for a state-of-the-art new train fleet, which is set to arrive 2023, and a £70m new depot.

VJ Day



Although Covid-19 meant greatly reduced local remembrance events, it was important to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East. My thanks go to the Whitley Bay, North Shields & District Branch of the Royal British Legion who marked the event on our behalf at the Cenotaph in Whitley Bay.

**Whitley Bay Big Local and the Base
win YAP
Challenge funding**



A huge congratulations to Whitley Bay Big Local and Barnardo's the Base, Whitley Bay on being awarded £100,000 grant from the London 2012 legacy funder, Spirit of 2012, to run Bay Create for two years. The fund was created and awarded by Spirit of 2012's youth panel, made up of young people from across the UK.

I was pleased to be asked to a letter of support for the bid but the credit must go to Whitley Bay Big Local and Barnardo's the Base for coming up with the idea for 'Bay Create' which will bring together local residents from different generations for cultural projects inspired by the landscape and shared heritage of Whitley Bay.

Participants and volunteers will co-design and lead Bay Create, working with artists through creative projects and activities that reflect and explore what Whitley Bay means to different generations.

Well done to all involved.

Help for carers



North Tyneside Carers' Centre

As lockdown measures ease and businesses start to reopen, I know that carers remain concerned about leaving their home and people coming into their home, due to the vulnerability of the people they care for. On top of that, many carers are unable to take a break from their caring responsibilities.

North Tyneside Carers Centre recently contacted me to ask me to remind people that they are still open for business, concentrating on emergency planning and wellbeing with carers through 1-2-1 telephone calls, email, Live Chat, virtual meetings and workshops.

If you or someone you know is a carer, [visit their website here for more info into how to access help.](#)

Worries over domestic violence

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner has recently warned, following meetings with local domestic abuse support services that referrals will soar when children head back to school this September.

Many services reported a worryingly low number of referrals during the peak of lockdown and many victim services are now reporting a sharp increase as the easing of lockdown enables more victims to reach out for help.

I am joining the PCC in her efforts to lobby the Government for a long-term funding commitment to deal with the problem holistically rather than the piecemeal approach we are currently seeing.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, you can report an incident by ringing 101 or visiting www.northumbria.pnn.police.uk. Also in a non-emergency situation you can text the police on 07786 200814.

In an emergency, always call 999. If you dial 999 and are unable to speak, the emergency operator will ask you to dial 55 and to follow their instruction to quickly put you in touch with police.

Help is also available From Victims First Northumbria, who can be found at www.victimsfirstnorthumbria.org.uk or on 0800 011 3116.

Best small shop competition 2020



I am calling on Tynemouth constituency's small shopkeepers to enter the Best Small Shops Competition, celebrating the successes of small shops and the central role they play in their local community, particularly in response to Covid-19.

The Best Small Shops Competition is open to any small shop operating in the UK. The competition is free to enter and all shops who enter will also be promoted to consumers through an online Indie Retail Directory.

Shopkeepers can nominate their businesses until Friday 11th September 2020 via www.bestsmallshops.co.uk

A shortlist will be announced in October with winners announced in November.

The judges will be looking for evidence of a small shops' entrepreneurial spirit, ways that they have been innovative in their business and what they have done to have a lasting positive impact on their community.

The shortlisted small shops will then be in with the chance to win one of five awards, including the newly launched award for small shops response to Covid-19.

150 years of the British Red Cross



Since 1870, the British Red Cross have been providing support to those who need it most. During the First and Second World Wars, the British Red Cross gave relief to sick and wounded members of the armed forces, prisoners of war

and civilians. After the First World War, they began providing health and social care services in peacetime. These services were continued and extended, and they have worked hand in hand with the NHS ever since its creation in 1948.

Today, the British Red Cross are supporting those most impacted by the pandemic across the UK. Helping people home from hospital, providing short term mobility aids, tackling loneliness, providing a listening ear through their free coronavirus support line, providing small emergency cash grants, supporting people seeking asylum, and delivering food and medicine to those in need.

The British Red Cross has set up a free coronavirus support line for anyone needing emotional support and would like to speak to a friendly voice. The Coronavirus support line can also provide advice and guidance if anyone is having problems accessing food or getting medication. The number is 0808 196 3651 and the line is open daily from 10am to 6pm.



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