



David Linden

Member of Parliament for Glasgow East



0141 778 1177

@ david.linden.mp@parliament.uk

www.davidlinden.scot

facebook.com/DavidLindenMP

@DavidLinden

September 2018 newsletter

So, Summer recess has drawn to an end and Parliament is back again. I've relished all the time I've been able to spend in the constituency these past few weeks. I'll keep championing the East end and its people whether that's at home or down the road at Westminster. It's here that the real work is, and my consistently busy surgeries are proof of that!

If you want to keep up with my work, you can sign up online to receive this newsletter in your email inbox every month at davidlinden.scot/newsletter



East end braces for sanctions surge

The UK government's Universal Credit system has been deeply flawed, and new statistics show that Glasgow East has cause to be alarmed ahead of the planned roll-out here at the end of the year.



Statistics on benefit sanctions released in August revealed that the proportion of claimants sanctioned under Universal Credit (2.8%) is nearly ten times higher than under Jobseeker's Allowance (0.3%), and nearly 30 times higher than Employment and Support Allowance (0.1%). It was also revealed that the average Universal Credit sanction lasts longer.

With financial support being shamefully pulled from claimants who have already faced delays in Universal Credit, as well as the direct link between people who have been sanctioned and the rise in foodbank use and poverty, the UK government is pushing people into crisis and it needs to stop.

Myself and Glasgow's SNP MPs continue to campaign to halt the roll-out of Universal Credit, and will not rest while such serious problems exist.

Baillieston bridge back in action

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the re-opening of the Muirhead Road bridge between Baillieston and Broomhouse earlier this week. Network Rail have rebuilt and re-opened the bridge ahead of schedule, in this multi-million pound infrastructure project.

Members of the local community have been incredibly patient throughout this process and it was fantastic to be joined by some of them along with Councillor Elaine Ballantyne last month.

Councillor Ballantyne worked tirelessly to mitigate the effects of the closure on local residents, managing to secure a free bus between Broomhouse and Morrisons, following talks that she initiated with the supermarket, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, and other parties. A massive will done to Elaine and on behalf of the community there, a huge thank you!





Afternoon tea raises Breast Cancer Care funds

Last month, I held a special afternoon tea at Garthamlock and Craigend East Parish Church to raise awareness of the work carried out by Breast Cancer Care. Donations at the event also managed to raise a modest £91 for the charity, which will help with their work providing support for anyone affected by breast cancer.

Breast Cancer Care provide information on living with and beyond breast cancer. If you or anyone you know need emotional and practical support from the charity, their breast care nurses can be reached on 0808 800 6000.

Another supermarket surgery success

Following a successful launch in July, I've taken another Saturday out to hold a special Supermarket Surgery - this time in Tesco at the Forge Retail Park in Parkhead.

These surgeries aim to make me more accessible and approachable to local folk, who may find them more convenient to attend than my regular surgeries at libraries and community halls. So far, they've been a hit and I intend to keep offering them to meet demand. They'll be taking a short break in September, but look out for details of October dates!



Tails wag at Tollcross Park

Having recently visited the Dogs Trust rehoming centre in Baillieston, I was keen to welcome their roadshow to a park in the East end, and so arranged a special afternoon in Tollcross Park last month.

Over fifty of your furry friends came along on the day for free basic health checks, to get microchipped, and have their nails clipped. Veterinary nurse Gillian was also on hand to give advice and information to dog owners, who had plenty of questions for her.

I can't thank the charity enough for taking up my invitation and can't wait to welcome the roadshow back to Glasgow East soon. I'm currently trying to organise another date and venue, so if you're interested in attending, watch this space!



Parents on board at Oakwood

School visits are definitely one of the highlights of my work as a Member of Parliament and I was delighted to be welcomed along to Oakwood Primary School in Easterhouse recently. It was inspiring to see how Oakwood are always going that extra mile to make sure every child gets the best start in life.

It was a special treat to be invited to spend time with the Parent Council, made up of incredibly enthusiastic parents who are passionate about every child's experience in their time at Oakwood. The school's partnership approach to working with parents is highly effective and exemplary.

Brexit update



As Brexit crunch-time fast approaches, the likelihood of no-deal seems to increase. Indeed, at the start of August, International Trade Secretary Liam Fox put the odds of leaving the EU without a deal at "60-40". Those reckless comments followed remarks from the Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt that the probability of a no-deal Brexit was "increasing by the day".

More than two years following the EU Referendum, this is an altogether sorry state of affairs for the UK to be in. There are now literally just a few weeks left for the Tories to work out a deal with the EU, yet all we are seeing from them is distraction, division and delusion.

I've been writing this monthly Brexit column for almost a year now, and recently went back to read my first one from last November. I can honestly say that there has been such little progress made on Brexit since then that I would be able to reprint the piece here today and you would be none the wiser that it was from last year.

This total lack of inertia from the UK Government has been incredibly damaging, not only to the UK's economy, but to our standing in the world. We've fast become a laughing stock. Confidence in Britain is sinking, yet there has been no change of course from Theresa May. Things only look set to get much worse.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research has revealed new research which shows that a no-deal Brexit would hit the economy by £800 per head in lost output. The Prime Minister's doomed Chequers plan fares marginally better, but would still cost the economy £500 per head per year.

The latest report from the Fraser of Allander Institute showed nearly half of businesses surveyed have already seen a negative impact as a result of the vote to leave the EU, compared to only 6% that had seen a positive impact. Three quarters of businesses said that they did not have adequate information to allow them to plan for different potential outcomes of Brexit negotiations.

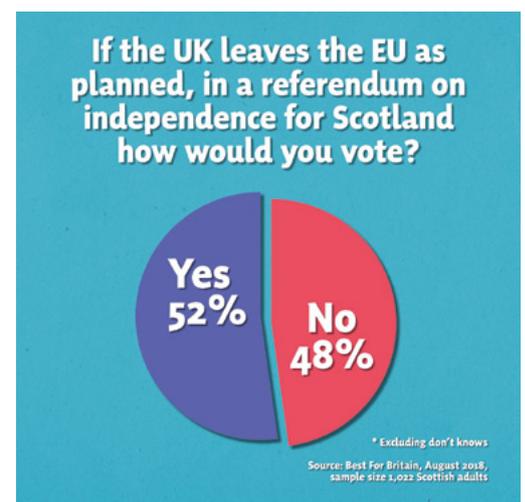
And in a survey of 2,000 employers, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development warned that many businesses were being hit by "supply shock," and that two in five employers were finding it more difficult to fill vacancies over the past year. It warned that the drop in the number and suitability of applicants was a major driving factor behind this blow to businesses.

With the clock ticking down, the Prime Minister needs to finally concede that backing the single market and customs union is the only option to protect jobs, to protect the economy and to protect the good Friday agreement. If she doesn't, she'll find that the people of Scotland are prepared to back a different plan...

Scotland backs independence over Brexit

A sensational new poll has revealed that 52% of Scots would vote for independence after Brexit, and a similar percentage of voters in Northern Ireland would vote for a United Ireland after the UK leaves the European Union.

Amid the Brexit chaos caused by the Tories, and with more people believing independence will benefit the country economically, the numbers convinced by the arguments for independence are on the rise. As Scotland's economy continues to outperform the UK, and as people grow increasingly concerned about what the future holds after Brexit under Westminster rule, that 52% looks set to rise further.



I've been back In Your Shoes...

I've long believed that, if politicians are to truly represent their constituents to the very best of their abilities, then we need to be prepared to roll up our sleeves and put ourselves in the shoes of others. In Parliament we're often given a platform to make speeches and tell the Government what we think but that's got to be based on our experience here, on the ground, in our own constituencies. Being an MP can't just be shuttling backwards and forwards between Glasgow and the green benches of Westminster.



That's why I've gone 'In Your Shoes' again, undertaking a week of work experience right across my constituency. Having placed the control in the hands of my Facebook followers who voted for the final five placements, I last month took on a variety of challenges which saw me volunteering at my local food bank, helping elderly residents of a Greenfield care home, delivering mail in Baillieston, working as a housing officer in Parkhead, and supporting teachers at a primary school in Shettleston. Judging from the online reaction, In Your Shoes has proven immensely popular and will definitely be back bigger and better for a third installment.



Working for you in every community across the East end of Glasgow

I run a number of regular surgeries throughout the East-end of Glasgow. All of these operate on a first-come first-serve basis and there is no need to make an appointment.

If you need help or advice, pop along to see me. If none of these times are suitable, please get in touch by email or phone.

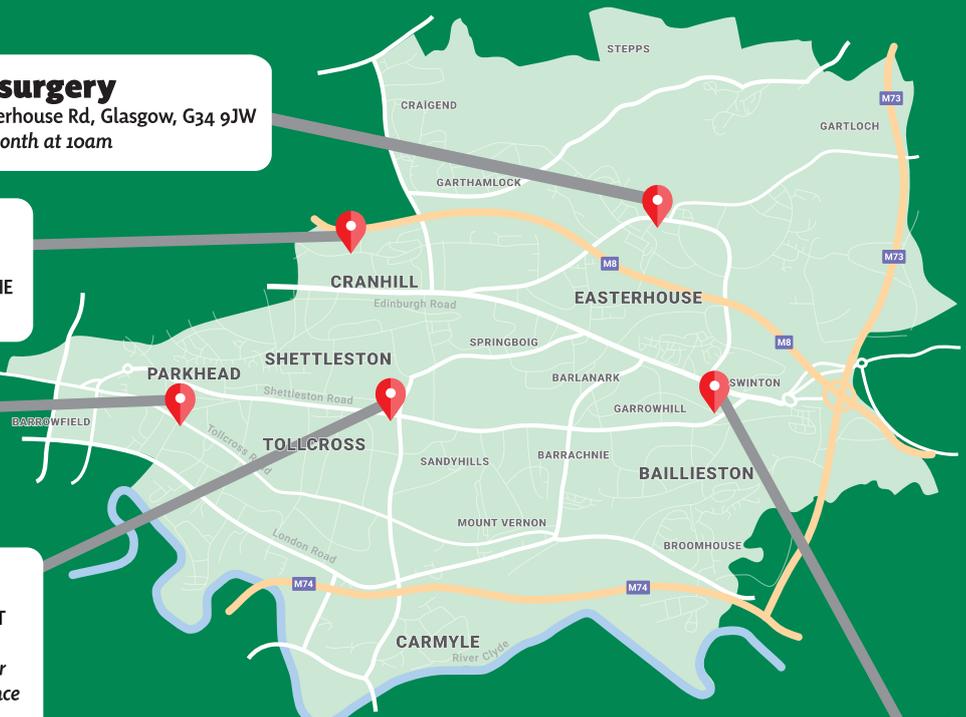
Easterhouse surgery
The Bridge, 1000 Westerhouse Rd, Glasgow, G34 9JW
Third Friday of every month at 10am

Cranhill surgery
Cranhill Development Trust,
109 Bellrock Street, Glasgow, G33 3HE
First Friday of every month at 10am

Parkhead surgery
Parkhead Library, 64 Tollcross Road,
Glasgow, G31 4XA
Second Friday of every month at 10am

Constituency office
Academy House, 1346 Shettleston Road, G32 9AT
If you require an appointment to see me at my constituency office, please phone 0141 778 1177 or email david.linden.mp@parliament.uk in advance

Transport links
 Services 2, 46, 60, 60A, 61, 310, 364, N2, N60 all have stops within walking distance
 Shettleston Rail Station is a five minute walk



Baillieston surgery
Baillieston Library, 141 Main Street, Glasgow, G69 6AA
Fourth Friday of every month at 10am