

Health Through Warmth

Sylvia visited a local Halesowen couple last winter, Joseph and Polly Moore, after they received help from the npower Health Through Warmth scheme to replace their boiler and keep their home warm.

The couple's old boiler which provided both the heating and hot water for the property was 20 years old and after repeated problems had been condemned by their gas supplier. The couple were unable to fund the cost of the replacement boiler and faced the prospect of a

cold winter. Sylvia put them in touch with the npower Health Through Warmth co-ordinator in Dudley who was able to access funding to cover the cost of replacing and installing the new boiler.

The scheme has already provided practical assistance to 13,000 households across the country. If you think you may be entitled to benefit from the scheme (you do not need to be an npower customer) you can contact Sylvia Heal's office on 01384 41 22 33.



Sylvia is pictured visiting Joseph and Polly Moore to see their new boiler.



Youth4em

Youth4em is a young person's community action group. The young people involved use their spare time to make a difference within their local area. They undertake a range of activities including litter picking, painting out graffiti and visiting the elderly in their local residential home.

More than 200 members across the Dudley area are involved in the Youth4em. The group has been

recognised by local industry who have donated a variety of rewards for the young people who take part, including free tickets to the Safari Park, Cadbury World, Laser Quest, Alton Towers and many more.

Sylvia attended the Youth4em's Charity Fashion evening and was pleased to meet members of the Youth4em in London to congratulate them on receiving the Government's *Respect Award for Taking a Stand* recognising the hard work that Youth4em has done to benefit the local community.

Sylvia is pictured (left to right) outside the Houses of Parliament with PC Gary Hall and PCSOs Jo Dubberley, Ammo Randhawa and award winners Joanne and Danielle Bates

Every Disabled Child Matters

The Disabled Children Review was set up to look at the support available for disabled children and their parents and to see how the provision can be improved. Sylvia has been involved in every step of the review and was delighted that the subsequent Report commits the government to increasing provision of vital services while

providing extra funding and further reform. Parents will have a greater say in shaping local services through local forums. A grant of £280m will provide an extra 40,000 fortnightly short breaks for disabled children and their families. This will not only enable parents to have a rest but allow children to experience new things.



Sylvia Heal with the Rt. Hon. Ed Balls MP Secretary of State for Schools, Families and Children and Francine Bates the former Chief Executive of Contact a Family.

Veterans Day Presentation Evening

Sylvia hosted a Presentation Evening at the Royal British Legion in Halesowen at which local Veterans along with friends and family received their Veterans Badges from Derek Twigg MP, Minister for Veterans.

The Government established the

Veterans Badge to commemorate the heroic acts and sacrifices of our Veterans. A hundred Veterans in Halesowen and Rowley Regis contacted Sylvia over the last year to apply for a Badge. If you served in the British Armed Forces up until 31st December 1994 you can contact Sylvia Heal's Constituency Office on 01384 41 22 33 to apply for a Veterans Badge.

Sylvia Heal pictured (left to right) with Derek Twigg MP, Minister for Veterans, Veteran John Baynham and, Arthur Hadley, Chairman of the Halesowen Royal British Legion.



Environment

The environment and climate change are increasingly important issues in today's world. Sylvia believes it is important that each and every one of us play our part if we are to make a real difference to the environment. There are a range of simple steps that people can take, ensuring machines are not left on standby, using energy saving light bulbs, drying your washing outside and riding a bike or walking instead of driving.

Sylvia recently visited the new Francis Court development in Halesowen with

former Minister for the Environment Ian Pearson MP. Owned by Accord Housing Association it is an excellent example of smart design helping to reduce climate change. The complex is designed to have a "zero carbon" rating, with super insulated floors, ceiling and windows, so much so that the rooms require no additional heating.



Sylvia is pictured (left to right) on her visit to Francis Court with the Chairman of Accord Housing Association Barry Picken, Chief Executive of Accord Housing Dr. Chris Handy and John Sharpe from Sustainability West Midlands.



Sylvia is pictured on a visit to Whiston Industries with (left to right) Bruce Whiston, Trevor Talbot, James Dunford and John Deeley.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing has always played a large part in the prosperity of Halesowen and Rowley Regis with several local companies providing major source of employment for local residents.

Sylvia recently visited two local engineering companies. Talco Storage, based in Cradley Heath, produces a range of tool storage products that are known across Europe. Sylvia was impressed by their efforts to maintain a

British product using British Steel and a local workforce.

Whiston Industries are the UK's number one press tool manufacturer supplying worldwide the automotive, aerospace, medical and energy industries. Both companies like many across the constituency provide training and employment opportunities for their dedicated work force.

Carers Employment Rights

Sylvia was pleased to host a reception at the House of Commons in April for Carers UK, to mark the new Work and Families Act. The Act brings into law the most far reaching rights Carers have ever achieved.

The new law means that Carers of adults now have the right to ask for flexible working hours, bringing their

rights into line with parents of disabled children.

Sylvia was delighted to welcome Christine Rowley to the event, the Dudley Carers Coordinator with whom she has campaigned with over many years on the issue of Carers Rights.

Sylvia is pictured with Christine Rowley the Dudley Carers Coordinator and Imelda Redmond, Chief Executive of Carers UK.



Sure Start Community Transport

Rowley Sure Start and Children's Centre have been working in partnership with Sandwell Community Transport for over six years. The partnership has enabled suitable transport to be provided for families who would otherwise find it very difficult to travel to activities in the local area.

Community Transport has supported Rowley Children Centre by covering all the running costs for the mini-bus. The joint venture has proven to be an

extremely successful partnership of voluntary and statutory organisations meeting the local communities' needs.

Sylvia carried out the official handover of a new mini-bus for Rowley Regis Sure Start at the opening of Community Transport Sandwell's new facilities.

Sylvia is pictured with Jim Anderson Manager of Rowley Sure Start, Phil Brannon Manager of Community Transport Sandwell and parents and children Jayne Oliver and Ashton Green, Zita Plant and Sarah Plant.

