



Elderly Care Homes Campaign

Better care for Kingston's elderly has been an important campaign for me this year. Urgent action is needed, as 5 Kingston care homes have closed and 10% of nursing home beds in Kingston & Richmond have gone since 1998.



This shortage of places and the high costs are real concerns for local people. Care home residents also suffer, when homes close and they are forced to move.

Local Survey

Worse still, our recent survey of 17 homes found 9 considering closing. The reasons include low fee income from Government, skill shortages and the cost of adapting homes to meet new minimum standards.

In Parliament I raised these issues and am pressing for a major shift in policy. Our local Council and NHS will need to build on existing partnerships so more beds are available.

NHS links

Good elderly care will also help the NHS, freeing up beds. The Government's NHS policy will not work unless this care crisis is tackled.



"Kingston's police should be on the local beat, not forced to travel to Wimbledon if they close our Courts."
Edward Davey MP.

Save Kingston's Courts

The local fight against crime was dealt a blow when the Government said it may close Kingston's Magistrates' Courts, even though it has the busiest youth court in South West London.

I have been working with local magistrates and other Kingston campaigners to stop this attack on local justice.

At the time of writing, the final outcome remains unclear.

If we don't win, victims of crime will have to travel to Wimbledon, as will police officers, wasting their valuable time. As we already have too few police, I believe this is a key campaign. I was disappointed the Prime Minister did not step in after I asked him to do so at Question Time in the Commons.

Dear Constituent,

My fifth annual report tries to keep you in touch with my work on your behalf, both locally and in Parliament.

Do let me have your ideas for improving the report.

For more in-depth information, you can browse my website, where you can also see my [first four annual reports!](#)

Our libraries now have free access to the InterNet - with help on hand to guide.

With best wishes,

Edward Davey

Campaigning for Kingston & Surbiton

Standing up for Kingston and Surbiton in the Commons is a key part of my Westminster work.

In debates and at question time, there's normally a local angle that needs to be put - whether it's a question to the Prime Minister on saving Kingston's Magistrates' Courts or a Westminster Hall debate on the problem of graffiti in our Borough.

Meeting Ministers, receiving constituency lobbies or presenting petitions are essential parts of the job.



Edward Davey with other Lib Dem MPs, continue the Jubilee 2000 campaign to "drop the debt" for the poorest countries

Raising issues of national concern

Treasury Issues

I speak on Treasury issues for my party. Last year this involved me in issues including:

- * Budget analysis
- * The 2002 Finance Bill
- * Debates on making the tax system simpler

I launched my own campaign for tax reform based on a website, www.simplertax.org.uk.

London Issues

I also lead on London issues for my party and in this work I spoke in debates on:

- * Housing in London
- * London Underground
- * Poverty in London



Edward Davey at Prime Minister's Questions raising concerns on the safety of nuclear power stations from terrorist attack

Motions, questions & votes

I backed over 200 motions on issues such as:

- * NSPCC's "end child cruelty" campaign
- * Support for NHS digital hearing aids
- * Opposing changes to Network Railcards

Questions asked included:

- * The abolition of council tax
- * Tax compliance costs of business
- * The 1901 Census Website

I've voted in 70% of divisions in 2001/2 so far.

I voted against Government policies on care homes, student finance and post offices. I voted with the Government on extra NHS cash, new travel concessions and tobacco advertising.

Health

The opening of Kingston Hospital's new Accident and Emergency Unit was the year's highlight. The building is impressive, but people can still suffer long waits. We need more staff and more beds - in the rest of the hospital and in local care homes. The extra NHS cash in the budget was welcome and will help - it's something I've long argued for. Locally, we must ensure we get our fair share and that it's well spent. Moreover, we've still many challenges - whether it's improving hospital cleanliness and parking or developing new GP services and provision of devices like digital hearing aids.

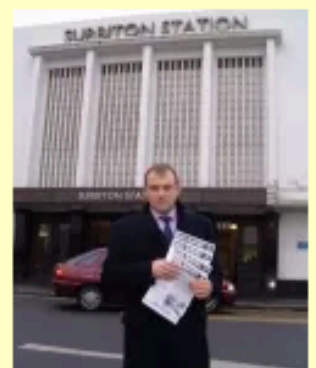


Edward Davey with Princess Alexandra at the opening of Kingston Hospital's new A&E unit

Transport

The chaos on Britain's railways hit local passengers hard. I pressed for an early resolution to the uncertainty about our local rail franchise and for the Strategic Rail Authority to improve investment plans for local commuter routes. However, the lack of certainty about overall railway policy is a major stumbling block to progress.

Edward surveyed commuters for their views on local rail services





Edward, with the Bishop of Southwark, opened the new classrooms at St Matthew's School, Surbiton

Education

Kingston's top education issue increasingly is recruitment and retention of experienced staff. All my visits to local schools reinforce my view that London weightings for teachers remain inadequate. This is closely linked with the need for more affordable housing locally. In Parliament, I argued for more imaginative planning across London, to assist schools and all local employers.

Crime

A modest victory for the campaign for extra police was achieved last year. During the Metropolitan Police Authority's review of resources across London, I lobbied hard and argued in detail. We got a net rise of between 8 and 14 officers - depending on how you do the figures! I'm still unhappy, as the new formula means we won't get a fair share of future growth: so I'm still pressing our case for more police. The good news is recorded crime, in almost all categories, fell in Kingston last year, but we still have a way to go.

Local Appeals

This year 3 major fundraising projects stood out:

- * Kingston Hospital's Cancer Unit
- * Kingston's new theatre, due to open in 2004
- * Repairs for All Saints' Parish Church - Kingston's only Grade One Listed building

This challenging combination is nevertheless an exciting one. Campaigning to win them extra support will remain a priority over the next 12 months.