

Get in Touch

Constituency Office

4th Floor, Sun Alliance House
166/167 St. Helen's Road
Swansea SA1 4DQ

Sandra Richards PA & Office Manager (01792) 460 836

Mick Harper Senior Caseworker (01792) 460 836

Assembly Office

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA

Neil Woollard (02920) 898 132

I regularly update my **Facebook** page with news and information
and you can follow me on **Twitter** [@juliejamesam](https://twitter.com/juliejamesam)

My Website www.juliejamesam.co.uk

You can also contact me on

Julie.james@wales.gov.uk - (01792) 460 836 / (02920) 898 132

Labour  **Llafur**

Julie James AM

Swansea West



**Out on the
European
Campaign
Trail**

UPDATE

May 2014

- **IN THE CONSTITUENCY**
- **ASSEMBLY NEWS**
- **AT THE SENEDD**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Update

10,000 FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS IN WALES' MOST DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

The Welsh Labour Government has announced new funding to provide 10,000 free books to children living in the most disadvantaged parts of Wales.

Children living in Flying Start areas will benefit from free books to help continued learning at home. Each book bag will contain a bilingual and an English language book, a set of crayons and a scribble pad.

Flying Start offers parents free quality childcare for 2-3 year olds, parenting support, an enhanced health visitor service and help for early language development.

The books are in addition to those provided by the Welsh Labour Government backed Bookstart programme, which gives free bilingual book packs to every child in Wales at nine-months and two-years.

23,579 children are currently benefitting from Flying Start and Ministers want the scheme to cover 36,000 children and their families by 2016.



Team Swansea working together at the Assembly to highlight Ofgem's new 'Energy Shopper' campaign.

Update

OUT AND ABOUT

It's been an incredibly busy month. I've been working hard with party volunteers throughout the ward delivering literature and canvassing for the Euro Elections. Thanks to everyone who has helped, in anyway you can, during the campaign.

I've held a number of surgeries within our constituency and by appointment in my new office. I have also attended the Mayor Making. In addition I had a very helpful meeting with our MP Geraint Davies to discuss the issues facing our constituency and how we work together to tackle them.

I have had two meetings with the Welsh Government Housing Minister to discuss issues surrounding HMOs in Swansea and Wales. I have also had a conversation with the Heritage and Planning Ministers where I raised the issue of the conservation zone in Uplands and the use of a 'Certificate of Lawful Use' to overcome planning restrictions. I have attended two Ministerial briefings focusing on the forthcoming Wales Bill and the potential impact on EU Structural Funds as a result of the Williams Report on Local Authority reconfiguration.

Various events have been held at the Assembly highlighting issues facing our population. These include Macmillan, Lung Health, MS, International Workers Day, RNIB, the impact of Bedroom Tax, Home Start, the Cross party Groups on Europe and Older People and Ageing, the SHA and a meeting with the Justice Unions about privatisation of the Probation Service by the Tories and Lib Dems.

I was also delighted to host the Swansea Bay LGBT Forum at the Assembly.



#Bring Back Our Girls

Assembly News

WELSH LEARNERS GET CREATIVE - THANKS TO DYLAN

To celebrate the remarkable life and work of Dylan Thomas, a special programme of educational events, run by Literature Wales and supported by the Welsh Labour Government, is running throughout the year. Developing Dylan uses the magic of Dylan's words to inspire young people to develop their own passion for writing.

As part of Developing Dylan, creative writing workshops are available to schools throughout Wales. These one-hour sessions for Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 level pupils are run by a team of 32 trained writers.

Devised by Canolfan Peniarth, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, the workshops reflect current curriculum requirements, including those of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework. Each workshop is specifically tailored to the relevant Key Stage, ensuring proper provision for differentiated learning and allowing children and young people the freedom to explore.

Education Minister Huw Lewis said:

“Developing an interest in literature from an early age is an essential part of inspiring our young people to write and create their own stories. The creative writing workshops offer learners a great opportunity to pick up valuable tips and advice from celebrated writers who, no doubt, will agree that Dylan Thomas inspired them to pursue their talent for creative writing. I am sure those learners who take part in the workshops will be similarly inspired”.

Assembly News

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IMPROVING ACROSS WALES

The report, which looks at progress made so far against the aims of the Welsh Labour Government's Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010, shows that more local mental health services are now available and that care is being planned much more around the needs of the individual.

The report shows that:

- 89.9% of people who require one have a care and treatment plan in place and there has been an increase in local services, such as open access courses and support groups.
- Waiting times for assessment have been reduced from the previous target of 56 days for referral to assessment, to 28 days.
- The current number of local primary mental health practitioners per 20,000 of population has increased to 1.96, almost double the suggested ratio of 1 per 20,000.
- All LHBs have arrangements in place to provide an advocate for every person admitted to hospital with a mental health issue.
- 97% of those who responded to a Mind Cymru survey said that their experience of advocacy was excellent or mostly good.

Thanks to everyone who came to the official opening of my new office in the Sun Alliance Building on St Helen's Road



AM Update



Members of Swansea Bay LGBT Forum in the Assembly, with Presiding Officer Dame Rosemary Butler. The National Assembly for Wales is in the top 10 of the UK's best employers: Stonewall 2014

SCAM AWARE

This month I joined numerous organisations in promoting Scams Awareness Month #scamaware and this week's focus on phone scams. The second most common type of scam in UK, 29% of scams use phone calls or texts to target consumers. If you get a call out of the blue, be scam aware.

People across Swansea tell me about calls they have received asking for bank details. It is really important that people are scam aware."

May 2014 is Scams Awareness Month. It's an opportunity for consumers and campaigners to learn and share then take that knowledge into the year round fight against scams. It's only through spotting the signs of scams and spreading the word as wide as possible that consumers can help to stop scams.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is and If you think something sounds a bit suspicious, take your time and don't be pressured into quick decisions. For example, computer firms do not make unsolicited phone calls to help fix your computers.

I have also been reminding people not to suffer in silence. If you feel you have been a victim of a scam report it. If you are at all worried you can also contact organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau and trading standards

AM Update



Supporting Macmillan at a recent event at the Senedd

RECORD SUCCESS RATES FOR APPRENTICES

Following a dramatic rise in the number of people starting an apprenticeship in Wales, the latest figures have shown further success for learners completing Work-based learning, Further Education and Adult Community Learning programmes.

The figures show that in 2012/13:

- 86% of those on Apprenticeship and Foundation Apprenticeship programmes successfully completed their full apprenticeship framework.
- Overall success rates for learners in Further Education rose from 82% in 2011/12 to 84%.
- 67% of trainees experienced a positive progression – compared to 63% in 2011/12.
- Success rates for Adult Community Learning rose to 84%, compared to 82% in 2011/12.
- Just over 28,000 people in Wales started apprenticeships – compared to 17,900 in 2011/12.
- The overall figure for work-based learning provision in Wales increased dramatically by 14.5% to over 61,000 unique learners.