

KEIR STARMER

- a national voice for local people -

Following Frank Dobson as the MP for Holborn and St Pancras is no easy task. Frank is rightly held in very high regard by very many of his constituents. The people of Holborn and St Pancras have high expectations of their MP. They want a first class local constituency MP and they want an MP with a powerful voice capable of influencing national politics.

I am local. I have lived in Kentish Town for 15 years and worked in Holborn for 25 years. My wife grew up in Gospel Oak, where her mum was the community doctor. Our children go to our local primary school, Eleanor Palmer, where my wife is a governor. Holborn and St Pancras is my community and I care passionately about its future.

Although I have been politically active for many years and devoted much of my time as a lawyer to representing trade unions and their members, I am not a career politician. I have spent my working life representing those least able to represent themselves. I acted for the NUM in the successful challenge to the pit closure programme in 1992; I provided ten years free advice to the *McLibel Two* in their epic battle with McDonalds; and I successfully argued that torture evidence should not be admissible in our courts.

I devoted 15 years to challenging the mandatory death penalty in the Caribbean and Africa, saving the lives of hundreds of prisoners on death row. Between 2002-07, I provided human rights oversight of the police in Northern Ireland as part of the Good Friday Agreement. That involved me working not only with the Policing Board and senior police officers, but also directly with the communities of Northern Ireland. I was named as human rights lawyer of the year in 2001 and human rights QC of the year in 2007.

From 2008-13, I was the Director of Public Prosecutions. I ran a front line national public service, dealing with difficult, often contentious, issues on a daily basis. With 9,000 staff and nearly 1 million cases to deal with a year, I have invaluable experience of national leadership and of bringing about real change. I also have considerable experience of handling both local and national media.

Since I stepped down as DPP, I have been working with Doreen Lawrence on a central plank of Labour's criminal justice strategy for 2015 – a victims' law – which builds on my experience in tackling violence against women and girls and child sexual abuse.

I recognise that low pay, housing, the NHS, education, public services and HS2 are crucial issues for our constituents and I would run an accessible and efficient constituency office, drawing on my experience as a front line lawyer, to provide real and practical advice, support and help.

I also want to use my national experience on behalf of all our constituents – from Highgate to the Regents Park Estate and from Somers Town to Covent Garden - to influence policy at a national level to ensure that change for the people of Holborn and St Pancras is not only possible but real.