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LABOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MITCHAM AND MORDEN

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Dear Resident,

Helping young people to get on the job ladder. It's my biggest priority

I remember the 1980s as though it were yesterday. I left college full of hope and then I began to look for work only to discover there were hardly any jobs available. Looking back I realise how lucky I was as I managed to get a clerical job and slowly worked my way into something more rewarding. Some of my friends weren't as lucky and were unemployed for a long time.

I'm worried the same thing is happening again. Parents tell me their children need a job but when they apply they can't get anything because employers want people with experience. On it goes, round and round, in the same circle.

I want to break that log jam, so I have approached local employers and asked them to provide a work placement for young people so that they can get the experience they need. The response has been fantastic and I now have around 60 employers willing to offer work placements of 8 to 12 weeks to more than 80 young people. There is something for everyone, covering construction, manufacturing, care services, education, law, charities, sport, hospitality and retail.

All of these vacancies are set out in the enclosed easy to read booklet. Please also tell others about this scheme as young people are not always great readers of letters from their MP!

This is the second year that I have run such a scheme. Last time many local young people ended up in full time paid work by the time they had finished the scheme. This is because employers want experience and references and with this scheme young people get both.

Participants also receive training. In addition to their 'on the job training' I will run a series of master classes for them on public speaking & communication, CV writing and interview skills. When they complete their programme they will be invited with their employer to the Palace of Westminster an Award Ceremony with the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Who can apply?

MPs are only allowed to run schemes for their own constituents so participants must be on the electoral register and live in the constituency of Mitcham & Morden this

covers includes the areas of Colliers Wood, Mitcham, Morden, Streatham Vale or Pollards Hill. If you are not registered yet please call Merton Council today on 020 8545 3407.

This scheme is geared to 18-24 year olds, but many employers will consider other ages, so it may suit young mums going back to work after their children have gone to school or someone who has been made redundant and needs new experience. Last time we did succeed in placing much older adults who ended up in full time work.

How to apply?

Please read through the booklet and see all the fantastic placements on offer. When you find a suitable work experience opportunity please contact Sarah in my office on 020 8542 4835 who will give you a personalised reference number to use when you call, email or write to the employer.

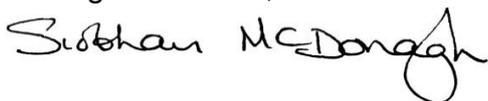
We can help

I have arranged an open day on Saturday 16th November 2pm-5pm to help those who would like a bit of extra assistance. Do come along if you would like help with writing an application letter or you would like some interview practice. It will take place in my office – 1 Crown Road, Morden (directly behind Merton Civic Centre). As we are offering one-to-one help at the 'Open Day' it is important to call Sarah on 020 8542 4835 to book your appointment.

Finally, a big thank you to the Communication Workers Union in Wimbledon – who look after the jobs of our postmen and women and who printed the work experience booklet for me – and to the volunteers from the Labour Party who have delivered this letter to you. I could not have afforded to do this without the help of both.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

With good wishes,



Siobhain McDonagh

PS – Young people without work is the worst thing for our society and my biggest criticism of the current Government, we need to both cut the deficit caused by the banking crisis and work out how we are going to build a prosperous economy for the future, so please do pass this information on to anyone who could be helped. There are placements for students with good A-levels and degrees as well as help for those without any qualifications. To get additional FREE booklets please call us on 0208 542 4835.

PPS – I have also put together a directory for after school activities during the evenings and weekends as we appreciate it's important for young people to have some where to go and something to do. We now have over 70 clubs operating locally for all age ranges. Again for your FREE copy please call my office on 0208 542 4835.