

Sol Campbell and Anita Dobson back Canning Town charity event



Sol Campbell, Anita Dobson with Anchor House staff members Kathy Blayney and Nigel Miles Picture Dai Taylor

Kay Atwal, Chief Reporter

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The former footballer and EastEnders star were at the House of Commons for an event organised by a charity for the homeless.



Monsignor John Armitage spoke in praise of the charity Picture: Dai Taylor

The event, which was held on October 10 - World Homeless Day, brought together individuals from a wealth of different backgrounds to mark the occasion.

It was organised by Canning Town charity Anchor House which provides support and accommodation to single homeless people in Newham every year. Last year alone, they provided a home for 202 people, helped 67 move on into independent living and helped 50 into employment.

At the event, host Baroness Maddock spoke about the growing problem of homelessness in the UK, calling on her colleagues in Parliament to confront the issues around housing and homelessness, and reflect on what the government can do to help combat it.

Economist Lord Gus O'Donnell, Anchor House Patron and former Cabinet Secretary, emphasised the impact that the charity has had – not just for people they help, but for society as a whole.

He said: "Oxford Economics found that for every £1 Anchor House spent, there was £4 of social benefit - that's an amazing social impact and a terrific investment. Visiting Anchor House, I realised that the people there are working incredibly hard to deal with some of the most difficult cases and are really making a difference."

Monsignor John Armitage VG, the Chairman of Management, explained that in order to continue this vital work, Anchor House is raising £9.3million for their Home and Hope Appeal, aiming to refurbish and expand the 50 year old building, ensuring it is able to meet the increasing demand on services.

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