

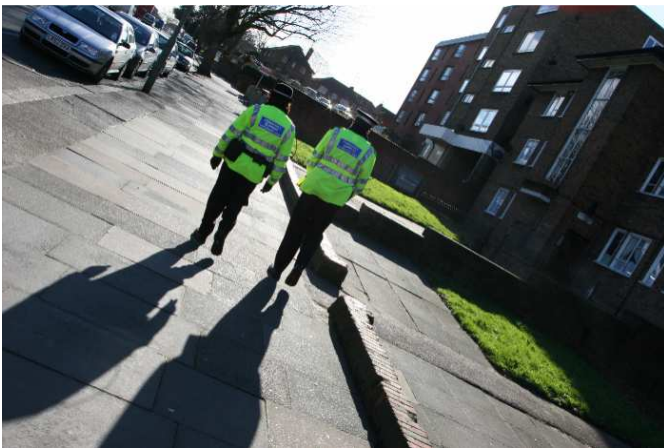


# News from Westminster

February 2008 Phil HopeMP

## A new style of policing for our area

Labour's neighbourhood policing plan for Corby and East Northants



Crime is down 32 per cent since 1997. Yet I recognise that there is more to do. I know that there are still real problems in some areas. Crime and anti-social behaviour can make people's lives a misery; crime can leave us feeling powerless and afraid.

That's why I believe we need to continue to take the tough action necessary to tackle crime and take on the thugs and criminals. I believe that the decent, law-abiding majority have a fundamental right to feel safe in their homes and on their streets.

Neighbourhood policing gives local people power over how their areas are policed. It is a new style of policing to address local priorities, improve public confidence and make neighbourhoods safer.

These police teams, dedicated to your area and listening to you, will be able to deal with local problems and tackle anti-social behaviour like vandalism, littering and graffiti. And they will be easy to get hold of because local police forces will publish their details, such as names and phone numbers, so they can easily hear from local people and get to know their neighbourhoods.

I know that people want; more say about their community and a police service that is visible, responsive and deals with local problems. That's why from 2007 you have had/will have a dedicated neighbourhood police team in your area. Bobbies on the beat in our streets make all of us feel safer and neighbourhood police teams will provide local policing based around your priorities.

I'm constantly working with the police and the local council - as well as ministers and government agencies - to improve the response to crime in Corby and East Northants, so that decent people feel supported and offenders are forced to stop.

My job as your MP is to make sure people listen to your experiences and tell you and me what they will do to help. So if you want to talk about what we can do to fight crime in your area please get in touch by telephoning my office on 01536 443325

# Happy Mothers Day

It's Mothers Day on Sunday, so don't forget to make it a special day for mums in Corby and East Northants - they deserve it!

I'm proud that children and families are at the heart of Labour's policies. I want to help Mum's achieve the best for themselves and their families. **That's why I voted for and supported our Labour Governments policies for families.** We have:



And coming up - I will support

- ✓ Given parents the right to request **flexible working hours.**
- ✓ Given every mum **nine months paid maternity leave.**
- ✓ **Raised maternity pay** from £55 to £112.75 per week.
- ✓ Introduced two weeks **paid paternity leave for new Dads.**
- ✓ Made access to **free study** for level 2 in literacy or numeracy available to everyone.
- ✓ Pledged that **child benefit** will be over £1000 a year by 2010.
- ✓ Helped 6 million families benefit from Labour's **tax credit.**
- ✓ Helping 600,000 pupils with **one-to-one tuition** in English and Maths.
- ✓ Giving **every young person** up to the age of 18 the right to further study, training or apprenticeship.

## Don't believe David Cameron's warm words - The Tories voted:

- X **Against** extending paid maternity to 26 weeks.
- X **Against** the introduction of two weeks paid paternity leave.
- X **Against** giving parents the right to request flexible working hours.

# New powers to seize the assets of drug dealers

This week Prime Minister Gordon Brown launched a new ten-year drug strategy. At a Downing Street event the Prime Minister was joined by Jacqui Smith MP, Labour's Home Secretary, along with drugs treatment workers to discuss the new strategy.

The plans are to:

- ✓ Give police new powers to seize the assets of drug dealers to demonstrate that crime doesn't pay
- ✓ Place a greater responsibility on drug users on benefits to get treatment and back in to work
- ✓ Increase the use of community sentences with a rehabilitation requirement
- ✓ Strengthen and extend international agreements to combat the flow of drugs to the UK
- ✓ Get drug-using families into treatment more quickly
- ✓ Develop support for drug treatment so that those who quit drugs are offered training and support in getting work and re-establishing their lives

Gordon Brown said that investment of almost £1 billion a year will be used to implement the key aims of the strategy: cutting drug-related crime; reducing the risk of drug use by young people; and enabling more drug users to rehabilitate and contribute to society.

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## Tories must come clean on cuts

Labour ministers from the Departments for Children, Schools and Families, Transport, the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office have written to the Shadow Cabinet to ask them to detail their plans for cuts to these departments, which Shadow Secretary for Health Andrew Lansley has said would be necessary to fund his health spending pledge.

Tory Shadow Health Minister Andrew Lansley has said that his huge spending pledge this morning would be funded by public expenditure cuts in other departments.

They also haven't explained how they would fund billions of pounds of promised tax cuts.

Tory Shadow Chancellor George Osborne himself has said that the Tories "will not be offering unfunded spending commitments. Additional spending in one area will be matched by a spending reduction in another".

If the Tories know how this pledge can be paid for, they will be able to explain to the country where the cuts they wish to make will fall.

If not, this adds to the growing evidence that George Osborne has lost control and is allowing the Tory Frontbench to make wild and rash tax and spend pledges without thinking for a second how they would be paid for.