

Dear friend,

Crime

This week saw the release of the latest figures for crime in the UK in the last year. The good news is that they showed that crime **is** falling – 9% in England and Wales since March 2007.

In fact, according to the British Crime Survey (an extremely robust survey which measures people's true experience of crime) crime has been falling year on year for the last ten years.

Yet people increasingly believe the opposite is true.

The recent increase in knife crime is one trend that does appear to be real though, and it is very worrying.

Although I wrote recently about the issue of knife crime I want to briefly re-visit this today as the Home Secretary launched a Youth Crime Action Plan earlier this week.

Unfortunately, some of the media coverage has distorted what Jacqui Smith announced. The new action gives equal weight to the triple-track approach of intensive prevention, support for parents and tougher enforcement of the existing laws around carrying knives.

I know from the many young people I meet daily in our community that the vast majority of them recognise right from wrong and make a positive contribution to our society. There are a minority however who persist in anti-social behaviour and some in more serious criminal activity.

Youth crime can have a devastating effect on victims and communities and must be tackled head-on. People who carry and use knives should be under no illusions that their actions are unacceptable. They must understand the consequences their behaviour has not only on victims and communities but on their families and their futures.

Like most other parents, I appreciate how crucial our role is to the development of our children. If we can identify young people at risk of committing these crimes early, and intervene to address the root causes of their behaviour, including supporting and challenging their parents in meeting their responsibilities we will be some way towards a solution

Tough enforcement and policing is only one part of the solution.

If you would like more information about the steps being taken to tackle this important problem, please do get in touch with me and I will provide this for you.

Olympic fever comes to Tooting

It is always wonderful to see young children taking such a keen interest in sports, as I did twice this week when I visited Sellincourt and Earlsfield Schools to watch their own versions of the Olympics.

Well, I thought that the Olympics were coming to London in 2012, turns out I was wrong! Both events were excellent examples of sporting prowess, almost like the real thing, with teams competing in a very sporting manner, cheering from the sidelines, and brilliant opening displays; I particularly liked the display of flags at Earlsfield School and the costumes worn at the opening ceremony at Sellincourt School.

It is clear to me that with less than 23 days to the Beijing Olympics, and just over 4 years to the London Olympics, Olympic fever is definitely hitting Tooting's schools!

Tooting has a rich history of great sports people; from Olympians like Judo champion Winston Gordon (who will be competing in Beijing this summer) to World Heavyweight Champion boxer Frank Bruno.

I am sure that Tooting will once again be well represented at the London Olympics in 2012. Who knows, some of young athletes may well be there while we cheer them on.

I'm certainly looking forward to watching the Games this summer and cheering on some of our home-grown talent!

Until next time.

Best wishes,

Sadiq

To read more about my work in our community and in Westminster, read my diary by clicking [HERE](#)

CONTACTING ME

I hold four advice surgeries every month around the constituency. For more information about making an appointment and how to contact me click [HERE](#).

Whether it's a local issue or government policy, I'm here to help (whatever your politics). Click [HERE](#) for details of how to contact or meet me.

For more details on my work for Tooting constituency residents, please see my website: www.sadiqkhan.org.uk.

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