

Dear friend,

It's been great to get such positive feedback from so many constituents after last week's email.

I am pleased that the new format has made it easier for everyone to read this now.

If you've been forwarded this email by a friend and would like to sign-up to receive it directly in future, please email [sadiqkhan@sadiqkhan.org.uk](mailto:sadiqkhan@sadiqkhan.org.uk) with 'Sign me up' in the subject box.

Keep the comments coming – I'm here to represent all of you and value your ideas and views on the issues of the day.

### **Getting tough on knife crime**

Knife crime is an issue which I take very, very seriously.

Last week I attended a public meeting held at West Side Church in Wandsworth Common to discuss community concerns about anti-social behaviour amongst a minority of young people. Although, thankfully, there have not been any tragedies in that part of our community, there were a couple of very serious incidents over the last two years which have caused me and local residents huge concern. In one of these incidents a trial is currently taking place at the Old Bailey of five gang members, charged with murder and GBH.

With this in mind I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming the announcement by the Prime Minister that new guidelines are to be issued on the prosecution of those caught carrying knives. At the moment people under 18s are routinely not being charged, even when in possession of a knife. From last Thursday everyone caught carrying a knife (including those below the age of 18) will be prosecuted. I have supported the doubling of sentencing for the possession of a knife, and see this is as another important measure that will help drive home the message that it is completely unacceptable to carry a knife under any circumstances.

### **Constituents visit 10 Downing Street**

Happily I got to see the very best side of humanity as well last week, when three volunteers from Tooting's local health services joined me at a reception at No. 10 Downing Street to celebrate the Volunteers Week and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS.

Originally I was only given one place, but following some intensive lobbying of the Prime Minister's office I was able to secure two more for our deserving volunteers!

The reception was a perfect opportunity to commend the time and efforts that Daniel, Kiron and Chris have devoted to helping our local health services. All three volunteers were thanked personally for their contribution by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown, his wife Sarah Brown and the Health Minister Ann Keen.

They are typical of the many wonderful individuals who selflessly give their time to help out in our local health services. Their efforts running patient liaison groups, fundraising and providing support for patients through 'buddy schemes' are an inspiration to us all.

### **And finally...**

I mentioned in my last email my visit to Sellincourt Primary School. On Friday I went to Fircroft Primary School to congratulate to one pupil in particular, James Pang (aged 9), who had the idea of a Red Clothes Day (as red is the colour of the national flag of China), to raise money for the victims of the Chinese earthquake. In total the school raised more than £1300 which will be given to the British Red Cross to spend on the victims in China. I am sure you will join me in congratulating James on his efforts.

Until next week.

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](http://www.sadiqkhan.org.uk).

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