



DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

Being at home in Suffolk over the summer months makes me appreciate all that is good about our county, but due to its rural nature, we can often take for granted that work that goes on here to keep us safe in our communities.

But this is not to say that crime does not feature here in Suffolk – I would like to commend the outstanding work going on around the clock with our dedicated team of Police Officers, PCSOs and those working tirelessly behind the scenes to combat the scourge of crime and indeed, online crime. Along with my fellow Suffolk MPs, I meet regularly with our Police and Crime Commissioner to hear about advances in the service, the achievements of Suffolk Constabulary and also to find out what more we, as Suffolk MPs, can do to help support our fantastic Constabulary.

Perhaps number one on our Police and Crime Commissioner’s request list is more and fairer funding for Suffolk’s Police. That’s why I am delighted to welcome our new Prime Minister – Boris Johnson’s pledge to invest in recruiting 20,000 new police officers across the country. People want to see more officers in their neighbourhoods, protecting the public and cutting crime.

Suffolk remains a wonderful county in which to live and do business, and a safe place to visit, but we do need to work together to tackle crime effectively. There are a great many dedicated people working tirelessly in our public services and in our communities to help discourage our young people from a life of violence and crime. But they can't do this alone. Together, our Police, Councils and communities in Suffolk share a collective responsibility, along with Government, to stop violent crime - that's why I am delighted with the Government’s announcement to urgently boost policing numbers to help us to tackle the scourge of knife crime head on, as well as other criminal activity.

But let’s be clear - crime of any nature is a blight on our communities, intimidating those who live and work in the area, and affecting quality of life. Our Prime Minister has been clear the he fully supports the Police’s use of “Stop and Search” to tackle and disrupt those carrying knives and I am therefore especially pleased that as part of its ongoing work to tackle serious violence, the Government will also urgently review a pilot, which makes it simpler for officers to use stop and search powers, with a view to rolling this out across all Constabularies at the earliest opportunity.

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