

Forward Together

Latest news from David Baines MP

Your Member of Parliament for St Helens North

June 2026 Edition

A special delivery for children at St James C of E Primary School!



**PLUS: Armed Forces Day... Supporting local pharmacies...
Campaigning for better paternity leave...Labour leadership
latest...AND MORE**

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On social media: @DavidBainesMP



Dear Residents,

Welcome to my June newsletter. A reminder that you can encourage your friends and family to subscribe [via this sign-up form on my website](#).

I hope you find it interesting and please do feel free to contact me anytime using the details on the back page if you need my support.

St James' anti-knife crime campaign

In June I had the pleasure of visiting St James CE Primary school again to present Year 6 children with a special letter from the Prime Minister, praising their campaign which has led to the installation of life-saving bleed control kits in the community.

During a visit from kNOW Knife Crime – a youth-focused anti-knife crime campaign group founded by Laura Hughes in memory of her brother, Colin McGinty – Mr Moon's Year 6 class learned not just about the dangers and consequences of knife crime, but also about positive, practical measures that can save lives – including KnifeSavers bleed control kits that are being rolled out across Merseyside to help manage life-threatening bleeding in the crucial minutes before emergency services arrive.

Following that visit, the pupils channelled their passion for change into action, writing persuasive letters to me about knife crime and asking for help in getting bleed control kits in the Haydock community.

I raised their campaign in parliament with the Policing Minister, and then volunteers at CETRA Community Centre got in touch to ask if they could find out more. That then led local business Steve Caunce Ltd getting in touch and thanks to them two bleed control kits have now been installed at the centre on Pimblett Road.

I also shared their letters with the Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and was delighted to share his heartfelt response with the pupils on my visit.



The pupils at St James CE Primary School are an absolute inspiration for all the work they have done on this really important issue, and are truly a credit to the school, their families and everyone in the community.

Knife crime is a scourge on our society. The letter from the Prime Minister spells out the action the government has been taking to tackle it, as well as his praise for the children's efforts, and it was a pleasure to present the letter to the class and see how much it meant to them.

Too many young lives are lost to violence, with their futures taken away from them and their loved ones forced to deal with grief they should never have to suffer. We absolutely need to prioritise prevention, but when the worst does happen, bleed control kits can be life-saving and we need to keep working to get as many rolled out across our communities as possible.

I want to personally thank the children for writing to me about these vital kits, and their brilliant teacher Mr Moon and Headteacher Mrs Young for inspiring them and supporting their ideas. I will make sure to continue to raise this issue down in Parliament.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 3AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 May 2026

Dear Year 6 students,

Thank you for your recent letters on knife crime and the availability of bleed kits, which were kindly passed to me by your MP, David Baines.

I enjoyed reading your arguments and was encouraged by your clear passion to make a difference in your community. I remain concerned by your reports of knife crime in your local area and would like to offer my reassurance that tackling knife crime is a top priority for this Government.

We have set an ambitious but essential target to halve knife crime in the next decade and are making tangible progress towards this commitment. On 7 April, the Government published 'Protecting Lives, Building Hope: A Plan to Halve Knife Crime' to further strengthen our response. At its core is prevention and support for young people to have a better start in life. Everything we do will be targeted to the people and places that need it most – every child deserves to grow up safely and that is exactly what we are working towards.

Over the course of the previous Parliament knife crime fell by 8%, or 4,229 fewer offences. We have banned dangerous weapons like ninja swords and zombie style machetes and have taken nearly 60,000 knives off our streets. This means fewer communities and families being torn apart by the knife violence we have lived with for too long.

In response to the Manchester Arena Inquiry, the Department for Health and Social Care has worked with partners to standardise the contents of Public Access Trauma Kits (PACT kits). These kits can be found at venues and public spaces and contain equipment for the use in the event of any catastrophic bleed. They are designed to be used by any person, regardless of whether they are first aid trained, and contain clear instructions and signage for locating.

We will continue to work with our partners on the use of PACT kits to ensure they are easily accessible for those that need them and will explore routes for further education around treatment of bleed injuries.

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The Government remains committed to reducing knife crime and protecting communities. We will continue to work closely with law enforcement, health services and local partners to build on the progress we have already made to keep people safe.

Thank you, once again, for your lovely letters. I want to wish you well in your continued studies and I encourage you to remain passionate about the causes you believe in – you never know how much of an impact you will have.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Keir Starmer".

THE RT HON SIR KEIR STARMER KCB KC MP

Labour leadership latest

At the time of writing, with nominations about to open for the Labour leadership, it looks all but certain that Andy Burnham will be the next Prime Minister.

Any change like this is a time of uncertainty. I believe Keir Starmer deserves a lot of credit for leading Labour to government and delivering big changes like reducing NHS waiting lists, the Employment Rights Act, the Renters Rights Act, free breakfast clubs, action to lift children out of poverty and keeping us out of the war in Iran.

But we also made mistakes, and the change in leadership gives the government a chance to set a new course as we work to regain the trust we've lost in some quarters over the last two years.

If Andy does become Prime Minister, I think having a leader from this part of the world, who understands and knows our communities, is a terrific opportunity for us to change things for the better and deliver on the promise Labour made to the country in 2024.

None of the big challenges we face are easy to fix: the cost of living; threats from abroad and the necessity to invest in our defence; one million young people not in education, employment or training; climate change; high streets and hospitality under pressure. But I believe Andy has the experience and the values to lead us towards a better future. We've got a lot to do, and I want to crack on and do it.

Supporting local pharmacies

[It was an absolute pleasure to visit Jolley's Chemist in Newton-le-Willows to learn more about the fantastic work they do for our local community.](#)

I want to say a huge thank you to director and pharmacist Paul Doherty for showing me round and introducing me to the wonderful and hard-working staff. It was a particular honour to meet Arthur Jolley whose family name still stands proudly above the front door!

Labour are investing £340 million to help pharmacies do even more to bring faster care to the high street. With this investment, pharmacists who hold an independent prescribing qualification will be able to assess patients and prescribe medicines directly, building on the success of the Pharmacy First service.



In St Helens North

I am bitterly disappointed with the decision to move Billinge Medical Practice to Garswood. I am worried about the impact this might have on the service and the barriers it creates for patients having to travel in order to see their GP. Myself and Andy Burnham in his role as the new MP for Macclesfield are going to do all we can to try and secure provision in both Billinge and Orrell nothing else is acceptable.

[Thank you to Stephen, Andrew and Tatiana from James Shaw & Son for inviting me to visit their site on Sankey Valley Industrial Estate.](#) It's a fantastic family business going from strength to strength. And thank you to [Sharon, Jeff and all the amazing volunteers at Cabbage Hall Cic for everything they do.](#) It was great to join them for a celebration of their outstanding efforts.

[It was also a pleasure to attend the Refugee Week football match at Ruskin!](#) Thank you to everyone who helped put this together, including Hope United, St Helens Town AFC, Halton & St Helens VCA, Café Laziz, and St Helens Minster.

[Newton Community Centre is such a fantastic place - the best people doing amazing things!](#) Their summer fair was a proper treat, and I'd like to thank all the trustees and staff for their brilliant work and to all the great local groups and businesses who supported this event. It was also great as always to join St Helens [Chain Lane Community Centre](#) for one of their amazing coffee mornings this week with lots of brilliant local organisations in attendance.

It was an absolute pleasure to attend Armed Forces Day events across St Helens North this year, including in [Victoria Park](#) and [Newton-le-Willows](#). I would like to thank everyone who helped organise them - including our fantastic local veterans and volunteers. Armed Forces Day is an opportunity for us to come together and remember those who make the ultimate sacrifices to keep us safe. **We will remember them.**



Two Weeks Isn't Enough

I want us to be a country that backs its dads as proudly as it backs its team.

If a new dad started paternity leave when the World Cup kicked off, he'd have been back at work before the group stage ended. That's why I wore this special England shirt alongside more than 50 other MPs to call for longer, better paternity leave in the UK alongside The Dad Shift and Movember.

Right now, new dads get just two weeks off, paid at less than half the minimum wage. If you're self-employed you get nothing.

That's the worst deal in Europe, and it robs dads of those precious first days with their baby and the chance to build a bond that lasts a lifetime. It piles pressure on mums and widens inequality. The Government's parental leave review wraps up later this year. The message from all of us wearing these shirts is simple: whatever the Government's priorities going forward, bold action on paternity leave has to be high on the agenda. That means at least six weeks at 90% pay, including for self-employed dads.

At a moment of national pride in our team, let's give ourselves paternity leave we can be proud of too!



Local elections

I'd like to congratulate those elected in Haydock and in Town Centre ward in the special elections in June.

Thank you to all our Labour candidates and campaigners, and congratulations to new Labour councillor Michael A Fisher who won in Town Centre ward and who now joins Cllr Keith Laird and Cllr Ian Mills in the town hall.

In particular, I'd like to put on record my thanks to Owen Farnworth who stood for Labour in Haydock and to all those who supported him.

At the time of writing it looks like yet another Reform councillor has resigned, this time in Billinge. We'll be fighting that one too – our communities deserve better than this chaos.



In Westminster

Great news for families and children across St Helens North. Labour is introducing a £4,500 bonus [to help attract and retain qualified early years teachers](#) in our nurseries, helping give more children the best possible start in life. This investment will support local childcare providers, improve school readiness, and help more families access Labour's funded childcare offer worth up to £8,000 a year. Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background.

Great to see that [unmarried couples will be given more financial security](#) thanks to a government consultation. It is designed to shape future law and better reflect modern society; the consultation looks to strengthen rights and make the separation process less financially difficult for couples and those who simply choose not to marry.

I am pleased that the Government is finally taking steps to protect children online, and I believe most parents will support [the plans to ban social media for under 16s](#). Tech giants have had every opportunity to act responsibly, and they have consistently failed to do so. It is absolutely right that we act to create a new normal for future generations. The days of social media companies putting profit before the safety of our children must end. There's a huge weight of evidence regarding the damage it can do to children and young people in particular, and the feedback from the major consultation that recently concluded shows most people want action.

It was [brilliant to welcome an English sporting legend](#) to Parliament today for the latest meeting of our Rugby League All Party Parliamentary Group - the one and only Adrian Morley. Adrian [was representing Rugby League Cares](#), talking with MPs about the important work the organisation does on mental health, player welfare and more, including the #RLShirtDay on Friday 10th July.

I was also delighted to welcome Ikram Butt and British Asian Rugby Association (BARA) Beyond the Try Line exhibition to Portcullis House. I've seen first-hand how our sport brings communities together, and BARA's twenty-year journey is a brilliant example of that in action. The exhibition is about heritage, identity and the role communities have played in shaping the games we love.

**THERE ARE 380,000
UNMARRIED COUPLES
IN THE NORTH WEST**



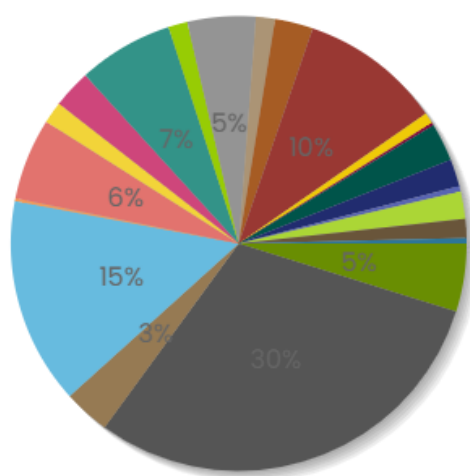
**LABOUR IS REFORMING THE
LAW TO GIVE THEM
STRONGER RIGHTS**

**JUST
ANNOUNCED:**

**SOCIAL MEDIA
BAN
FOR U16s**



Casework update



In June my office dealt with over 550 cases ranging from questions about assisted dying to animal rights, and helping hundreds of people with a wide range of urgent issues. Some examples of the cases we have dealt with include:

Social care support

Assisted a constituent who raised concerns over his care providers and asked for support in finding new care providers. We raised the case to the council and secured new care providers suitable to his needs.

Visa status

A constituent had issues paying for rent as their housing benefit was incorrectly stopped last year. The constituent reached out for support and we ensured that the correct benefit and reductions were reinstated to them.

Housing benefit

A constituent's partner was awaiting visa approval and asked for assistance. They then received a response from the Home Office confirming the approval of their visa as a result of our intervention.

If you need support or have a question please do get in touch. See my contact details on the back page.

Work experience

I want to do all I can to help young people improve their skills and experience so I am pleased to offer work experience opportunities in my office. It was great to have Ben join us in my Earlestown office in June.

He's a student at St Edmund Arrowsmith RC High School in Ashton (my old school!) and did two days helping the team with all sorts of things, learning about the day-to-day work of an MP's office.

If you are interested in work experience opportunities, find out more [here](#).



As ever I encourage you to get in touch at david.baines.mp@parliament.uk if you need my support or if you have a question, and please do tell me your priorities too. Remember you can follow what I am doing as your Member of Parliament via the dedicated news page on my website and on social media – search David Baines MP on Facebook, X, Instagram and Threads.

Best wishes,

David

