



**David
Baines MP**
Member of Parliament for
St Helens North

Newsletter
November 2025

Representing Billinge and Seneley Green, Blackbrook, Haydock, Moss Bank,
Newton-le-Willows, Parr, Rainford and Windle

Inside:

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



And more, including:



Marking
Remembrance Day



The Budget: What it
means for St Helens North

Online: davidbaines.co.uk | On social media: @DavidBainesMP



Dear Residents,

Welcome to my November newsletter which you can now encourage your friends and family to subscribe to [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.

Education Secretary and Schools Minister

It is clear that the current SEND system is not working. That's why I have spent months talking with local families and schools to help produce a SEND report which I have now presented to the Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson and Schools Minister Georgia Gould. You can read it here: <https://davidbaines.co.uk/send-report>.

Too many families and their children struggle to get the support they need, despite the best efforts of our schools and colleges who are themselves suffering the consequences of years of underinvestment.

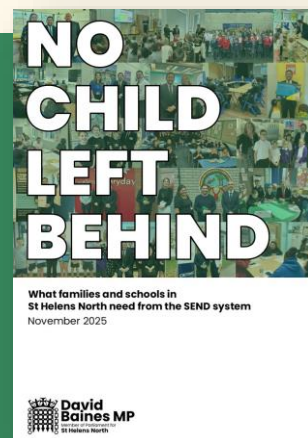
As a former volunteer youth worker, teacher, and council leader, I have long been passionate about doing everything in my power to help children get the best start in life regardless of their background or additional needs.

This is a priority for the Labour government too. We recognise that things need to change. The recently published Curriculum and Assessment Review is a start, and Ministers will shortly be publishing a White Paper setting out proposals to improve our Schools and SEND provision.

Presenting this report to Ministers will help to make sure that the voices of families in St Helens North are heard at the highest levels and help to shape any forthcoming change, and I hope it is also informative for families in St Helens North and all those with an interest in improving outcomes for children.

We need to reform the system to make sure that no child is left behind, and I hope the views of families and schools in St Helens North will help to inform and influence the change we need.

Thank you to all those who shared their personal experiences, and thank you to all our schools for everything they do. Please do continue to contact me if you have views or suggestions about SEND. This isn't the end of the process – it's just the start.



Budget 2025

Before the Budget, I told the Chancellor our priorities for St Helens North: action on the cost of living, investment in public services, growing the economy, support for businesses, and fair taxes to redistribute wealth and create opportunities for our communities.

I'm pleased to say that's what [this Budget](#) delivers.

Because we're making some difficult choices we can take action on the things that matter to most of us:

Everyone's **energy bills will be cut by an average of £150** from April.

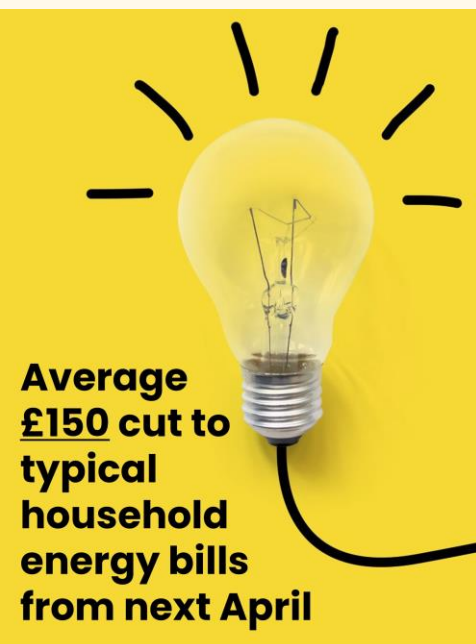
Train fares and prescription costs are being frozen, and so is fuel duty.

The **minimum wage and living wage are going up, and so is the state pension.**

Nearly 2,000 local businesses will get lower business rates. We're introducing **guaranteed paid work placements for young people** on Universal Credit, and **free apprenticeship training for under-25s** with small and medium-sized businesses.

We're **investing in our NHS** to lower waiting lists and increase appointments, supporting our public services, **making sure the wealthiest pay their share**, and **investing £120 billion in essential infrastructure** to help grow the economy, create jobs and improve connectivity.

I'd also raised the importance of Haydock Park Racecourse to our local economy and so I'm glad **horseracing has been protected from the sensible and welcome changes to online gambling taxes.**



ACTION ON THE COST OF LIVING

- ✓ **Increasing the Minimum Wage and the Living Wage** to £10.85 and £12.71 per hour
- ✓ **Extending 5p cut to Fuel Duty**
- ✓ **Increasing the Basic and New State Pension** by 4.8% – that's a £440 or £575 annual increase next year for around 18,000 older people in St Helens North
- ✓ **Freezing Prescription Charges**
- ✓ **Freezing rail fares and extending the Bus Fare Cap**



Budget 2025

And I've heard loud and clear from people in St Helens North that **we need to tackle the scourge of child poverty**. It's been something I've raised many times throughout my entire working life as a youth worker, teacher, councillor and MP.

More than 2500 children in St Helens North – most of them in working families – will be lifted out of poverty because of the decisions we've taken in this Budget.

Alongside our increase in the provision of free school meals, this Labour government is on track to lift more children out of poverty than any other government ever. It will be a historic achievement.

I've also been working to support local members of the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme to get their money back in their pensions, holding a roundtable with members earlier this month alongside trustees from the Scheme.

Last year Labour ended the Mineworkers' pension injustice, and now we've done the same for BCSSS members. **Over 130 members of the BCSSS in St Helens North will now get what is rightfully there's, with around 700 former mineworkers in St Helens North in total better off as a result of our changes to these pension schemes.**

Interest rates and inflation are coming down, and growth is going up. And all of this is just the start.

14 years of austerity, low growth and chaotic leadership doesn't get fixed overnight but this Budget is another big step taken by Labour in delivering change for St Helens North – lower bills, a stronger NHS, support for businesses, and more opportunities for young people.

FIGHTING CHILD POVERTY AND HELPING FAMILIES

- ✓ **Expanding Free School Meals** to half a million more children – helping to lift another 100,000 children out of poverty
- ✓ **More free breakfast clubs** in our schools



TACKLING INJUSTICE

- ✓ Addressing the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme injustice, giving a **pension increase to more than 130 ex-British Coal workers in St Helens North**
- ✓ **Mansion Tax** on properties worth over £2million
- ✓ **Stopping those living abroad** being able to buy a UK State Pension on the cheap
- ✓ **Exempting all Infected Blood Scheme compensation payments** from Inheritance Tax

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS AND JOBS

- ✓ Funding to make **under-25 apprenticeship training free** for small and medium-sized businesses
- ✓ **Increasing taxes on online gambling** but protecting horseracing – good news for Haydock Park Racecourse
- ✓ Funding for a **New Youth Guarantee** – £820m over three years for college, apprenticeships or personalised job support

In St Helens North

[It was a huge honour to cut the ribbon at the official opening of Progress Arc in Billinge.](#) The school is an alternative provider for children and young people and they are outstanding. Thank you so much to Headteacher Susan Fletcher and all the fantastic staff for the invitation to spend the morning with them and their students.

I held my latest advice surgery at beautiful Rainford Village Hall discussing SEND and more, and [it was great to visit independent specialist school Arts Education in Rainford](#) to find out more about their work and the talk about the ways we can improve SEND provision more generally.

[I was honoured to be asked to officially open Delkia's new HQ in Haydock.](#) Delkia is a proud, family-owned British company working in the defence and nuclear sectors, and I was and [pleased to be able to mention them in Parliament,](#) asking the Minister for Energy about the opportunities for companies like Delkia to benefit from and contribute to the growing nuclear sector. It was also great to welcome Local Government Minister Alison McGovern to Parr to talk with residents about Labour's £20m Pride in Place programme.

It was an honour to attend the official unveiling of a permanent [tribute to Cllr Linda Maloney MBE](#) who was a dear friend and colleague to many of us. She was a champion for Haydock and Blackbrook, and the plaque at Ashurst Primary School – which was rebuilt in large part thanks to her tireless campaigning – and the renaming of the nearby park means that she'll live long in the memory of not only those lucky enough to know her but generations of children to come.

During Safeguarding Adults Week, I visited Earlestown market to help promote support available, and I had the [honour to meet some of the amazing and inspiring young people at Outwood Academy Haydock](#)

I met the current student Prime Minister and Cabinet members to hear about some the incredible work they are doing for charity, and then I had the pleasure of meeting the superb candidates for the new Prime Minister, before announcing the winner via Google Classroom to the whole school. Well done to all the outstanding young people who took part!



I held a meeting with members of the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme at Newton Community Centre, and I am delighted that we received good news on this in the Budget later in the month.

I attended [an important assembly at St Augustine's by the Daniel Fox Foundation](#) talking about the dangers knife crime, and attended a BBC Bitesize careers event at Hope Academy in Newton-le-Willows. I also [attended a training session at Blackbrook Royals to help wish the under 7s a merry Christmas!](#)

In Westminster

[This month the Hillsborough Law began its passage through parliament.](#) It was introduced by the Prime Minister, who is committed to delivering it in full. We have a mandate to do this and to do it properly. The victims and survivors of Hillsborough and other injustices deserve nothing less.

I was [delighted to speak in the debate on Armed Forces](#) ahead of the Remembrance tributes. I am in awe of the work that Newton le Willows Sea Cadets, St Aidan's Church in Billinge, Crank & Kings Moss Community, Corporal Derek Johnson and the North West Veterans Corps of Drums do in our community for veterans.

Labour published the UK's first ever [Men's Health Strategy](#), and the Curriculum and Assessment Review for schools was also published. [I asked the Education Secretary about introducing continuous provision \(learning through play\) throughout Key Stage One.](#)

We continued to vote on major pieces of legislation such as the [Employment Rights Bill](#) and the [Planning and Infrastructure Bill](#) as they come back from the House of Lords. These Bills are vitally important for people across St Helens North – affecting workers' rights, job security, housing delivery, and the infrastructure projects that will shape our area's future.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and raising awareness, offering support, and funding vital research [is all part of what Prostate Cancer UK does](#). Credit to PDC Europe and darts superstars Luke Littler and Luke Humphries for the work they're doing to support the campaign. It was an honour to meet them.



We will remember them

It was an absolute honour to spend Remembrance Day attending some very moving Remembrance events across St Helens North. I visited [Crank & Kings Moss Community](#), [Earlestown](#), [Haydock](#) and [St Aidan's Church in Billinge](#).

I want to thank all of the organisers, local veterans, and those from across our communities who attended and took part.

[In Westminster, I had the privilege of planting a cross in the Garden of Remembrance in honour of Corporal Derek Johnson from Haydock who sadly passed away earlier this year.](#)

We will never forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms and preserve our democracy.

Lest We Forget.

Standing up for Veterans

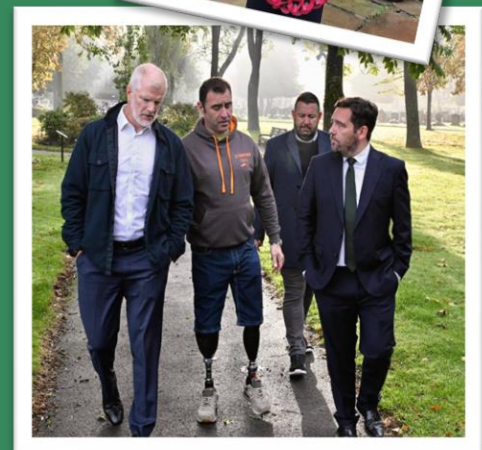
[I have joined with war veteran Andy Reid in his campaign calling for formal recognition for British Soldiers injured in combat.](#)

At present, UK service personnel who are wounded in active duty do not receive a medal or honour that reflect the physical and mental sacrifices they have made to protect our country.

I have written to Ministers with the support of other MPs to promote this campaign and making the case for change, and will be hosting a debate in Westminster Hall soon.

There are few who know better than Andy the physical and mental demands that soldiers go through on behalf of all of us, so when he speaks, we should listen.

It is the right and moral thing that those who suffer injuries while fighting for this country are afforded a fitting appreciation for everything they have done, ensuring their service can be seen and never forgotten. Other countries do it, and we should too.



First ever Men's Health Strategy published

I warmly welcome the publication of the country's first ever [Men's Health Strategy](#) – a landmark plan to tackle poorer health outcomes for men and boys across England.

It is high time we placed much more importance on men's health in our public health agenda. Too many men in our communities are quietly suffering and too many lives are being cut short.

From personal experience and through the work I've done supporting initiatives such as the Dad Shift campaign and Movember, I know the difference that awareness, early help and practical support can make.

This strategy recognises that real change means meeting men where they are, in workplaces, sports clubs, communities and at home. I look forward to working locally to ensure it delivers for the men and families I represent in St Helens North.

Just some of the commitments include: £3.6m over three years for suicide prevention projects, £3m for community-based men's health schemes, over £300,000 to help Rugby League Cares to better understand how to reach and engage boys and young men at risk of loneliness, and so much more.

For this strategy to make a real difference, local delivery is key. I will continue to work alongside local health services, charities and community groups to ensure men across St Helens North don't miss out. We have fantastic local organisations like [Dad Matters](#) already doing amazing and important work and I will continue to support them and everything they do.

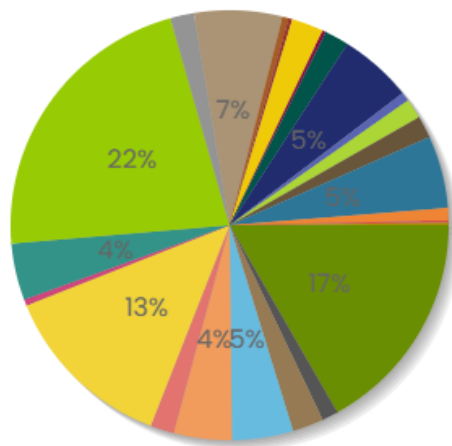
And the work doesn't stop – after the publication of the strategy, I met with Ministers to discuss paternity leave, and raised important points made to me by many local dads.

Better men's health – physical and mental – means stronger families, healthier communities, and a fairer future for everyone.



[READ THE MEN'S HEALTH STRATEGY HERE](#)

Casework Update



- Social Security and pensions
- Education
- Crime, civil law, justice and rights
- Agriculture, animals, food and rural affairs
- Energy, utilities and environment
- Economy and finance
- Science and technology
- Local Government
- Business, industry and consumers
- Employment and training
- Universal Credit
- Social services and social care
- HMRC
- Transport
- Housing and planning
- Asylum, immigration and nationality
- Communities and families
- Health services and medicine
- International affairs
- Culture, charities, media and sport
- Child Maintenance
- Parliament, government and politics
- Party issues
- Bulk correspondence
- Defence

5000 people helped!

This month marked the completion of the 5000th piece of casework since I became our MP back in July last year.

Me and my team have dealt with so many different types of queries from potholes to helping resolve pensions and benefits issues, to issues regarding children's SEND provision, to NHS appointments, to helping with social housing and private renting issues.

In addition to helping constituents resolve these vital personal issues we have also responded to hundreds of policy questions varying from Welfare Reform, to Gaza, to Digital ID and many more.

It is an honour to serve as our MP for St Helens North, and I want to thank all of those who have contacted me since I was elected.

I am proud to have been able to help 5000 people across St Helens North and look forward to helping as many more as I can in the years ahead.



If you think I can help with an issue, please do get in touch. Find out more about the types of issue I can assist with here: <https://davidbaines.co.uk/support>.

Merry Christmas!

As this will be my last regular Newsletter before the New Year, I would like to thank everybody across St Helens North who has contacted me and my office throughout the year, and all those across our community who have welcomed me to visit their places of work or to host local events. From our schools to our fantastic voluntary sector and exciting local businesses, it has been a pleasure to visit so many and I can't wait to continue in 2026.

I would like to wish everybody in St Helens North a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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, Instagram, and Threads.

Best wishes,

David



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