


Ann Coffey MP
**EMAIL
NEWSLETTER**



Representing Heaton Moor, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Mersey, Heaton Norris, Brinnington, Town Centre, Edgeley, Shaw Heath, Cale Green, Cheadle Heath, Davenport, Adswood, Bridgehall, Lancashire Hill, Heaviley, Offerton and Larkhill

Real Voices – child protection top priority



My independent report Real Voices – Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester, which examined what has changed since the horrific Rochdale sexual

grooming case in 2012, was published in October. There has been some progress made, for example each police division now has a dedicated specialist child sexual exploitation team. But more needs to be done. I prioritised speaking to young people and finding out how life feels for them.

The police, justice system and children's services alone cannot succeed in protecting children, especially at a time of deep spending cuts. It is alarming that there have only been about 1,000 convictions out of 13,000 reported cases of serious sexual offences against under 16 year olds in Greater Manchester in the last six years. We need a sea change in public attitudes which are being reflected in jury verdicts. Young people are still too often blamed for being victims. We need to get over the message that whatever young people wear and however sexualised they appear, they are still children and need our protection. The age of consent is 16 and adults who prey on children under that age are always wrong. Please have a look at my report.

<http://anncoffeymp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Real-Voices-Final.pdf>

Massive response to health survey



Ann hands over some of her NHS survey responses to Dr Ranjit Gill, Stockport's Chief Clinical Officer, at his Edgeley Medical Practice in Avondale Road

Thank you to more than seven hundred of you who have responded so far to my NHS survey. I wanted to ensure that you had a say in the *Healthier Together* consultation on the way Greater Manchester health services are delivered. The response has been great and your answers are still pouring in.

The majority of you support the idea of Stepping Hill becoming a specialist Accident and Emergency Hospital but many people have also told me they would like to see more community healthcare services to ensure old and vulnerable people do not suffer due to inadequate care.

Many of you worry about difficulties of getting appointments with your GP but on the whole seemed satisfied with the actual care received from your Stockport doctors.

If you haven't completed my survey yet, you can click [here](#) to take part.

Save the Savoy!



Local people have launched a campaign to save the historic Savoy cinema, which does not have digital projection equipment and is threatened with closure after 91 years. The group aims to buy, renovate and transform The Savoy into a community owned and managed two-screen cinema and arts centre with café bar. Many people from the Heaton have offered to support this community project. It reminds me of the 1990s when a tiny band of volunteers moved heaven and earth to restore the Stockport Plaza to its former glory.

The Savoy Arts Centre is now set up as a community organisation and can make funding bids, for example to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Sign their online petition now! <http://www.savoyartscentre.org.uk/>

Love Your Local Market

Stockport Market was vibrant and lively on the first day of this year's Love Your Local Markets Fortnight. During my visit I met Zoe Simpson from Dragonfly Blooms, who set up her flower stall a year ago with the support of "First Pitch" the start up scheme run by the National Market Traders Federation.

As the chair of the All Party Parliamentary Markets Group, I hosted the national launch of Love Your Local Markets 2014 at the House of Commons, which was attended by over 100 MPs who all support their local markets.



Ann with Zoe from Dragonfly Blooms on Stockport Market

Stockport Academy police cadets

Young police cadets on the beat will be fantastic youth ambassadors for our area. The first ever group of Stockport police cadets are training at Stockport Academy, and their hard work and commitment has now been recognised in the Greater Manchester Chief Constable's Excellence Awards. Congratulations to Jennie, Shauna, Karina and Dianna – and all the other cadets I met during a recent visit.



Jennie, Shauna, Karina and Diana with Ann

This team of students have shown great commitment to their training and learnt a lot about police work and how to engage with the community they will serve.

Clampdown on bullying barristers

It is appalling how some vulnerable child abuse victims are bullied by barristers in court. I support the NSPCC's "Order in Court" campaign to allow all child abuse victims to be able to give court evidence via a remote link. Currently only a handful of police forces do this and I am pleased that the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner has now chosen to use some of his budget to open a remote site at St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre.



Presenting a petition with the NSPCC at Number 10 Downing Street

The ChildLine Schools Service is another great NSPCC initiative which I have supported in Parliament. Specially trained volunteers go into schools to talk to primary school children about abuse and how to stay safe. Most children contact ChildLine when they are over 11 years old even though the abuse may have been going on for some time. This new project aims to reach out and empower younger children.

Green and glorious market garden

Greenman Market Garden is a fruit and vegetable social enterprise project run by volunteers who want to stay off alcohol. Based on the site of the former Woodbank Park nursery in Offerton, it grows vegetables, plants and fruit to supply markets and local people with fresh, healthy produce. Greenman developed out of the

Cirtek Alcohol Service User Group (CASU),formed in 2006. It supports people post detox who wish to remain abstinent from alcohol and is managed and run by volunteers from alcohol backgrounds, including family members and friends. It offers volunteering opportunities, peer support and mentoring; alternative use of time and a lifestyle change. Dianne Scott-Fowler, the founder of Greenman, urged people to drop by and check it out between 10.30am to 3pm.



Colin Belle, Ann and Dianne Scott-Fowler at Greenman Market Garden in Woodbank Park

Knit & Natter

Small volunteer groups like Knit 'n' Natter in Heaviley do a huge amount of work to bring people together and to foster community spirit.

The group, which meets every Tuesday afternoon, is now over 25 strong and has raised over £1,000

New Community Café



Ann at Olive Café with (left to right) Geraldine Sullivan (Project Manager) Chris Cheetham,

for local charities in the last four years. This year's charities include the Wellspring, Stockport Without Abuse and the Alzheimers Society.



(From left to right) Cathy Brown, Joan Heald, Ann and Beryl Manley

Pam Robinson and Liz Morrell

The Olive Café in Edgeley is an exciting new community project. As well as serving delicious locally produced food and Edgeley-roasted coffee, it is a registered charity. It has free wifi and computer courses. Many local groups meet there, including Age UK and ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) which welcomes young people every Friday. Stockport FLAG (For Local Advice and Guidance) also operate from Olive, which is supported by all the local churches.

Victory for Ask a Pharmacist campaign



One way of taking some pressure off the health and emergency services is if people get help for minor illnesses from their local pharmacist.

I support pharmacist Mohammed Ijaz's campaign to cut NHS red tape by encouraging people to get treatment for

How to get in touch:

Stockport constituency office: 0161 483 2600.

Direct email:
ann.coffey.mp@parliament.uk

Website:
www.anncoffeyp.com

minor conditions, such as eye infections
and athlete's foot direct from their
chemist.

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Ann Coffey MP
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