

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, Adswold, Bridgehall, Lancashire Hill, Heaviley, Offerton and Larkhill

Protecting children – update



Since the publication of my independent report ‘Real Voices – Child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester’- it has been great to see a growing determination in the community to work together to keep our children safe.

A public forum at Stockport Town Hall to discuss the report attracted about 120 people.

Statutory agencies are making progress across Greater

Manchester but there is still a long way to go. Awareness of the issue has increased and there is more police training taking place.

Sir Peter Fahy, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, told the forum that tackling child sexual exploitation remains an absolute priority for GMP. But he added that the big delays facing cases in the criminal justice system could act as a disincentive for victims to come forward.

Nazir Afzal, the chief prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service North West, echoed the call in my report, published last October, for communities to look out for signs of sexual exploitation in homes, institutions and on the street.

As part of the report's follow up I have also done a series of lectures including one for 400 trainee teachers at Manchester University and to groups such as Women's Institutes. I also attended a summit at Downing Street.

I am delighted that the term 'child prostitute' has been removed from all legislation after the Government backed my amendments to the Serious Crime Bill. The term was an outdated insult to victims as there is no such thing as a 'child prostitute' only a sexually abused or exploited child.

Print company's 125 year

success



Happy 125th anniversary to Deanprint Ltd - a great local company which began life in 1890 on High Street, Stockport. It moved to its present factory on Stockport Road in Cheadle Heath in 1920.

I was really impressed by the friendly 'family' feel at Deanprint, where staff turnover is low and apprentices can progress to senior roles. As well as taking on board new technology, Deanprint has retained the traditional craftsmanship of printing and bookbinding, which enables them to take on specialised commissions

Members of staff gathered for the anniversary celebrations included Doris Coppock who started at the factory as a school leaver and was retiring on that day.

Vintage emporium launched in award winning Stockport Market



An emporium selling vintage goods called [20th Century Stores](#) is a great new feature of Stockport Market. It follows on from the successful monthly Vintage Village Market, Teenage Market and Foodie Fridays. *I'm pictured above at the opening, with Paul Downs and Alan Lowe.*

Stockport Market has stood at the heart of our town for centuries and while shopping patterns have changed it has always managed to reinvent itself to cater for new generations of shoppers. That innovative approach is one reason it was named 'Best Small Indoor Market' in the prestigious Great British Market Awards 2015.



As the local MP and chair of the All Party Parliamentary Markets Group, it was a pleasure to officially open the 20th Century Stores, which has been partly funded by cash from Stockport's Portas Pilot Fund.

The Honourable Members of Mersey Vale



Mersey Vale Primary School Council invited me to talk to them about democracy and to answer questions about being an MP. I always love these sessions as the school council members, who are elected by their classmates, tend to be so 'on the ball' and demonstrate a great understanding about democracy and justice. We talked about how Parliament is currently commemorating the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, which paved the way for the House of Commons and the democracy we know today. It would be great if I had been talking to a future MP!

Welcome ban on glossy cigarette packaging

MPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of introducing standardised packaging for cigarettes in the UK. It means that from 2016 every packet will look the same except for the make and brand name, with graphic photos accompanying health warnings. I have been campaigning for this for years and many local parents wrote to

me to say they were worried about their children taking up smoking.

When I go round primary schools all the children say how much they hate smoking and yet this can change when they get a bit older. If we can prevent the under 16s from taking up smoking by outlawing glossy packaging, it will make such a difference to their health later on. Ill health caused by smoking still has a heavy impact on our communities – particularly in the less well-off parts of Stockport.

Supporting community groups and charities

Stockport has a thriving voluntary sector and hundreds of volunteers who work hard for many small community groups and charities. I have always felt it is important to give them all the support I can.



The Pavilion Pop-Up café in Brinnington (pictured above) is a firm favourite for local people. Mary Dutton and her volunteers

offer a warm welcome and a really friendly atmosphere - as well as a great cuppa and butties.

Local people in Brinnington are also at the heart of planning an exciting 'Big Local' Lottery Fund project. The estate was awarded £1 million over ten years to help improve the area and make it a better place to live. Residents have consulted widely and have come up with an action plan, which includes a community cinema in the parish hall; a community allotment; the launch of a small grants scheme; a community partnership with residents and health professionals to promote healthy lifestyles and the appointment of a Big Local Youth Outreach Worker.

Hear all about it!

Stockport has a 'talking newspaper' based at Walthew House, the charity based in Shaw Heath, which works with people who are blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing. At their Open Day I went into the Talking Newspaper Studio where volunteers read out the Stockport Express on tapes to be sent out to blind and visually impaired people. It brought back memories of recording a tape myself for the charity ten years ago!



I was also delighted to officially open the new DEBRA charity furniture

shop on the A6 in Heaviley. DEBRA supports families affected by a painful genetic skin blistering condition called Epidermolysis Bullosa – it's a national charity which relies on public generosity to carry out its work, including funding vital research to find a cure for this horrible condition.



And below Ann visiting the Stockport Oxfam shop promoting fair trade:



Postmen and women to help

find missing children



Ann visits the Stockport Royal Mail Processing centre

Greater Manchester postmen and women have taken on an extra role helping to find missing children and vulnerable adults. A new partnership between Royal Mail and the Missing People's charity will ensure that Child Rescue Alerts and High Risk Missing People Alerts will be distributed to the 124,000 postmen and woman nationally via their handheld scanners, so that they can lookout for missing people while on their postal rounds. This is an inspired way to spread an alert quickly by people who are the eyes and ears of the community. When children go missing they can be in danger, including at risk of child sexual exploitation.

National Care Homes Day



To celebrate National Care Homes day I visited Newlands Care Home in Heaton Moor. This designated day was a great opportunity to create links between care home residents and their local community and also to show visitors that care homes can be inspiring places.

Three cheers for school meals



On a recent visit to Our Lady's Primary School in Edgeley I popped into the kitchen to meet the lunchtime staff who were preparing their popular and nutritious school meals.

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