

# Parliamentary Report

Stockton South – Dari Taylor – Spring 2004



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House of Commons  
Westminster

## Dari's Private Member's Bill - Screening...

each week four, possibly eight, apparently fit young people die, sometimes from a diagnosed heart condition which has not been treated; sometimes from an undiagnosed heart condition – even though the physical symptoms suffered by the person are known but dismissed; sometimes without any warning. Sudden death in the young, represented by the voluntary organisation Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), was the substance of my Private Member's Bill.



A tremendous amount of hard work with health ministers, cardiac specialists, CRY, and Members of Parliament, ensured that the Department of Health acknowledged the value and importance of my Bill. I was offered the opportunity of writing a chapter in the Cardiac National Service Framework – which will in practice ensure that all medics, from GPs to cardiac specialists, will understand that fit, young and regularly-athletic people can have a potentially fatal heart condition (a cardiomyopathy, ion channelopathy, Wolfe-Parkinson-White syndrome, or others). Palpitations, fainting, dizziness and other symptoms could be suggesting that a serious heart condition exists, even when a person is young and athletic. **Screening is essential**, and if a disease is confirmed, treatment must take place. Additionally, if an inherited disease is confirmed, then first-degree family members should be invited to be screened.

An advisory committee of cardiac specialists, CRY and other voluntary organisations is being set up. It will report in a year. The National Service Framework will educate, advise and instruct on the necessary medical approach to be adopted by all doctors – with this in action I will hopefully never again hear that a young man with Wolfe-Parkinson-White was told by his cardiac specialists "your condition is a bit of a nuisance – get on with your life" That young man died in his sleep and has no life to get on with. Thank you to all who wrote to me supporting this Bill. **The bill was a challenge well worth meeting.**

## Listening... Advising... Supporting... You

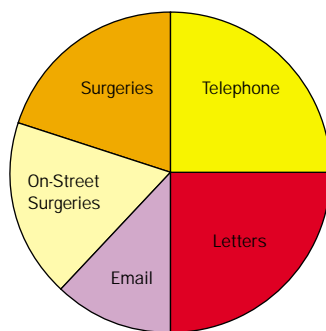
### Problems I help to resolve:

Housing                      CSA                      Planning  
Council Tax                  Pensions              Employment

### Policies I respond to include:

Iraq, Third World debt, live animal transportation and many others.

I receive over 15,000 letters, invitations and policy queries every year. If you believe can help or advise you to resolve a problem or support a charity, please either write, email or phone me at my office.



### I like to hear your thoughts on issues and policies.

#### Please write to me at:

109 Lanehouse Road, Thornaby-on-Tees, TS17 8AB Tel: 604546 or Fax: 608395  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Tel: 020 7219 4608 or Fax: 020 7219 6876

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For me to respond, please give me your:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dear Constituents

It remains a pleasure and a privilege to represent Stockton South in Parliament. This year has been very busy, with new laws on anti-social behaviour, education funding, domestic violence and much else. At the same time, I have continued to respond to your many letters as well as meet many of you during private surgeries and "On-Street Surgeries", which take place throughout the constituency. Many people give me glowing feedback about policies that have made a difference to their lives. These include:

- \***Pension Credit** now benefits 4,278 pensioners in Stockton South, rewarding savings and lifting pensioners out of poverty. To apply or receive more information, phone free on **0800 99 1234**.
- \***Council Tax benefit for pensioners** has been expanded to those living in house bands F, G and H. Call **01642 393829**.
- \***Fireworks Law** has been tightened. Purchase and possession by under-18s is illegal; fixed penalty notices for people caught throwing fireworks in the street increased to £80; cheap "pocket" fireworks, like airbombs and mini rockets, have been banned; a restricted use is enforced two weeks prior to Bonfire Night and New Year.
- \***Sure Start** provides families in Stockton with good quality childcare, early learning and family support to ensure all children get a good start in life.

These are policies with which people are happy. Sadly, there are others with which some disagree. This year asylum seekers, top-up fees, and military action in Iraq top the list.

\***Military action in Iraq** was based on the UN Security Council's 1998 Report that Saddam Hussein had amassed chemical and biological weapons. I acknowledge this was a political decision and that WMD have not yet been found. However, an Iraq with a deposed Saddam Hussein, if the polls are to be believed, is achieving a better life for Iraqis. This surely must be celebrated.

\***Policy on asylum seekers** has tried to keep a balance between addressing abuse of the immigration system, and giving protection to genuine refugees.

The government, with the UN, has opened new routes that will bypass "organised people smugglers". Hopefully, as stability returns to wartorn areas, the number of people that need protection will reduce, and fewer will request asylum. I believe that Britain must remain a liberal state that gives shelter to those fleeing terror. I am confident the majority of people support this belief.

\***Universities** have a funding gap estimated at £10 billion. The number attending university has increased by over 500% in the last 35 years. Two options to funding this sector were debated: increased general taxation and top-up fees. As at present taxation pays for approximately 80% of all HE funding, I thought it was appropriate that students should contribute 20% - this is said acknowledging that they benefit most from this sector.



Dari and Kevin enjoying a ride in Elementis Chromium's Country Park.



The Stockton South Parliamentary Team



"Heroes Return" pays for WWII veterans to return to where they fought. Call 0800 169 227



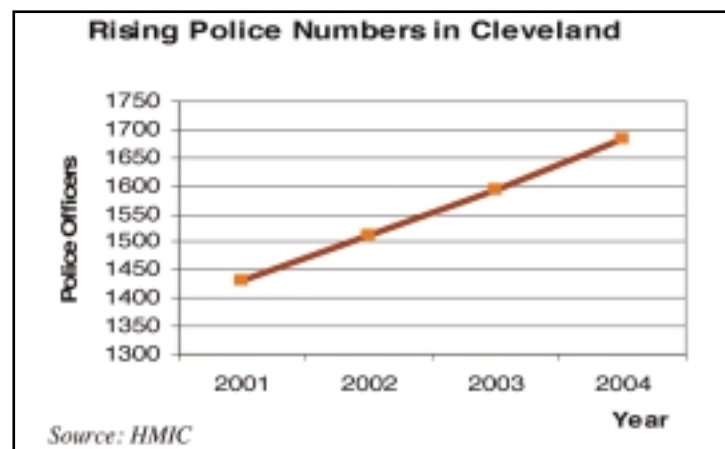
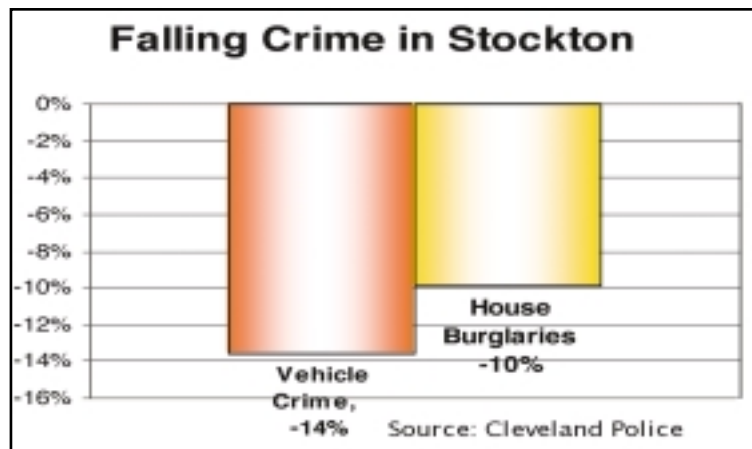
Major Morgan in Iraq

I would be delighted to discuss in more details these policies or any other concerns you may have. The coming year will bring more critical issues to be decided. We will have to choose whether we want a regional assembly for the North East, and it is likely that next year we will be in serious discussions about the Euro. Let me know what you think.

With best wishes  
from Dari Taylor

# Working Hard for Crime is down – but you don't believe it!

# Stockton South



The facts from Cleveland Police show crime falling fast in the **Stockton district**. **Vehicle crime is down by 14%** this year, and house burglaries have **fallen 10%**. This is welcome news – but do you feel reassured? **Do you believe that less crime is taking place on your street?** I would like to hear from you.

The new law on Anti-Social Behaviour (outlined below) gives the police new powers, places clear responsibilities on parents, young people and neighbours. We are all at a point where we will not tolerate Anti-Social Behaviour – even when it is claimed "I was just having a bit of fun".

**A consultation is taking place at this time on Policing Neighbourhoods... if you would like a copy of this, and wish to respond, please give my office a ring.**

N.B: A concern for us all is that crimes of violence related to drugs are significantly on the increase.

**The Anti-Social Behaviour Act is in force. The Police, courts and local authority have the powers they need to tackle disruptive individuals.**

- \* **ASBOs** follow failed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, which if breached could result in a Custodial Order.
- \* **Parental Orders and Parenting Classes**, if ignored and breached could lead to imprisonment.
- \* **Dispersal orders** will be enforced for young disruptive groups causing a nuisance.
- \* **Curfew Orders** will be enforced, preventing disruptive youths from visiting, playing and walking in certain areas.
- \* **Instant Evictions** administered against a tenant who inflicts misery on a neighbour.
- \* **The offence of graffiti and fly-posting**, will instantly be given a fixed penalty of £50.
- \* **New Offence:** it is illegal to sell spray paints to a person under 16 years, with a maximum penalty of £2,500.
- \* **A Community Safety Strategy**, drawn up by the police and the local authority, is now in force.



**Alley gates** in Parkfield and Thornaby are helping to reduce crime. Dave Gregory, a local resident, said "The gates look good, and since they have been there we are no longer getting rubbish dumped there." Another positive local said "They give me peace of mind. I can use my backyard for the first time in ages." Dari accepts that there is demand for additional alley gates from many areas in Stockton South. She says that we must all remember more gates means we cannot cut council tax.



## Popular policing...

throughout Stockton South there is growing demand for **Police Community Support Officers**. This force is deployed in areas with the highest crime. They first took to the streets in March, and we now have six officers in **Thornaby**, and eight in **Stockton** – including two dedicated to **Parkfield** and **Mill Lane**. They are the eyes and ears of the community, so when they pass your house, make sure you introduce yourself. **Neighbourhood Wardens** were introduced three years ago – and have been so successful that their number has been increased from 20 to 36 in the past year. Neighbourhood Wardens provide a highly visible uniformed presence, deterring anti-social behaviour and fostering social inclusion – in **Thornaby**, covering **Mandale, Victoria, Village** and **Stainsby**, in **Parkfield** and **Mill Lane**, and **Ingleby Barwick** from April.

Photo (right, below): Community Safety Police have made a big difference to street-level safety. Photo (left, above): Neighbourhood Wardens

**Sure Start** – a government-funded project which aims to give parents the confidence and support they need whilst improving the education, physical and emotional development of the child.



"It was a pleasure to meet with the staff of Sure Start at the Victoria project. Their commitment, humour, warmth and professionalism was visible to all. The enjoyment of the children was a pleasure to see", said Dari Taylor.

Sure Start is operational in Victoria, (527246), Mandale, Village and Stainsby (415739), and Parkfield (527246). This project involves constructive play activities with toys and a book lending library; advice on child development given to Mums and Dads and all carers. If you want to know more and be a part of this community activity, give them a ring.

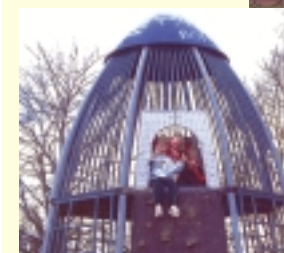
The Government's Sure Start budget will rise to over £1.5 billion by 2005 - 06, including a doubling of previous money for childcare. In Stockton alone we are receiving £7.6 million over the period of 2004 - 06; Neighbourhood Nurseries schemes will receive £2.5 million.

I will fight to ensure that this funding continues, and Stockton gets its fair share. If you have an opinion about the increased support for childcare drop me a line.

## More Creative Play Space...more fun, for children and young people



Funding has been secured for new play area in **Victoria, Littleboy and South Thornaby**. The next to see a new play area will be **Village Park**...money has been secured. **Youth** is up and running and proving to be a successful youth facility.



Many of us know **the value of a good home life**, good parents and a good supportive start in life. Sure Start aims to capture this advice and support and make it a reality for many – the hope is all – children and their families. A good start helps us to grow up with balanced personalities that enable us to enjoy life without feeling the need to rough up neighbours and those in the wider community. Of course it also helps us to cope with the difficulties and disappointments of life. Sure Start is an excellent project. Let's make sure it remains in our community, and that means we will not be voting for a tax cut because we know that that will ensure a cut in **Sure Start**.