Questions

1. How should Labour tackle anti-social behaviour and ensure people feel safe in their

homes, workplaces and local communities?

2. What resources and tools do the police and enforcement agencies need to keep our

streets safe and to deal with neighbourhood crime?

3. How can prevention and diversion schemes be improved to reduce crime and

reoffending?

- 4. What approach should the Labour Party take to improving justice?
- 5. In what ways can devolution and constitutional reform empower people and bring

our communities closer together?

- 6. What are the specific implications of policy proposals in this area for (a) women,
- (b) Black, Asian and minority ethnic people; (c) LGBT+ people, (d) disabled people
- and (e) all those with other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?
- 7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when

collaborating with devolved administrations and local governments in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?



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Safe and secure communities

The context

The last 13 years of Conservative government have left our communities more divided, unequal and

vulnerable. The pandemic has had a lasting impact on our communities and the cost of living crisis presents

both immediate and future challenges. Yet, the Conservatives have prioritised their own political future

ahead of building stronger community cohesion and security.

The poorest areas have been hit the hardest, with the deepest cuts often being inflicted upon local

and neighbourhood services most in need, while financial support is handed out to those areas which

are already better off. Labour will seek to rebalance power, give local people more control over their

communities and build a fairer future for everyone.

Ensuring our communities are safe and that people feel secure in their homes and local neighbourhoods

should be one of the top priorities for any government. Yet the Conservatives have spent a decade cutting

our police and fire service workforces, leaving communities across the country exposed.

There are thousands fewer Police Community Support Officers than in 2010, and neighbourhood policing

has been slashed in the past eight years alone. The percentage of people saying they never see the police

out on foot patrol has almost doubled since the Conservatives came to power in 2010.

Confidence and trust in our police have plummeted and it is the sad reality that in 21st century Britain many

people have given up reporting neighbourhood crime, as they believe nothing will come of it. Our police

lack the ability to respond quickly to crimes, investigate them thoroughly and hold those responsible to

account. The overall charge rate is at the devastatingly low level of 5.5 per cent and the total number of

arrests has fallen sharply since 2010.

Furthermore, serious violent crime is increasing, with specific types of knife crime surging to their highest

point on record. Online crime and fraud have also risen to unprecedented levels, and the number of

sexual offences being recorded by the police has now reached a record high. Despite this, diversion schemes and preventative services have been decimated, particularly those

available to young people. Between 2010 and 2020 more than 4,500 youth work jobs were cut,

and 760 youth centres closed. Cuts to youth services funding have left our young people without

the safe spaces they need, and access to mental health services for many is virtually impossible.

The Conservatives have also eroded public faith in our constitution and political institutions. From the

granting of peerages to ex-Conservative staff members to the decision to award contracts during the

pandemic to businesses with connections to the Conservative Party, it is clear greater scrutiny and

accountability must shape the future of the UK's constitution, so it reflects our modern democratic values.

The UK remains one of the most centralised democratic countries in the whole world and has one of the

highest income inequalities in Europe. While there have been some welcome developments in recent

years, such as the expansion of regional Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners, the Government's

approach to devolution and constitutional reform has been far too slow and too narrow.

The overall focus of this year's commission is therefore how Labour can empower our communities more

broadly and strengthen neighbourhood cohesion, in particular, with the aim of reducing crime.



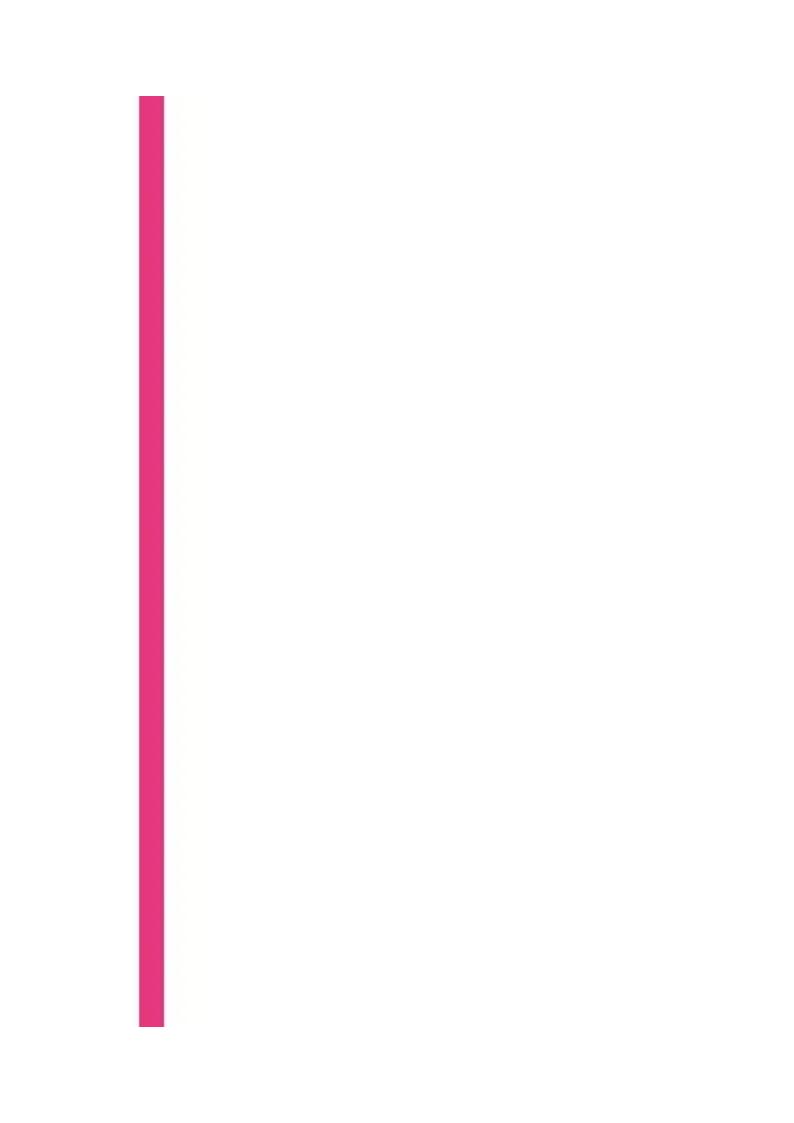


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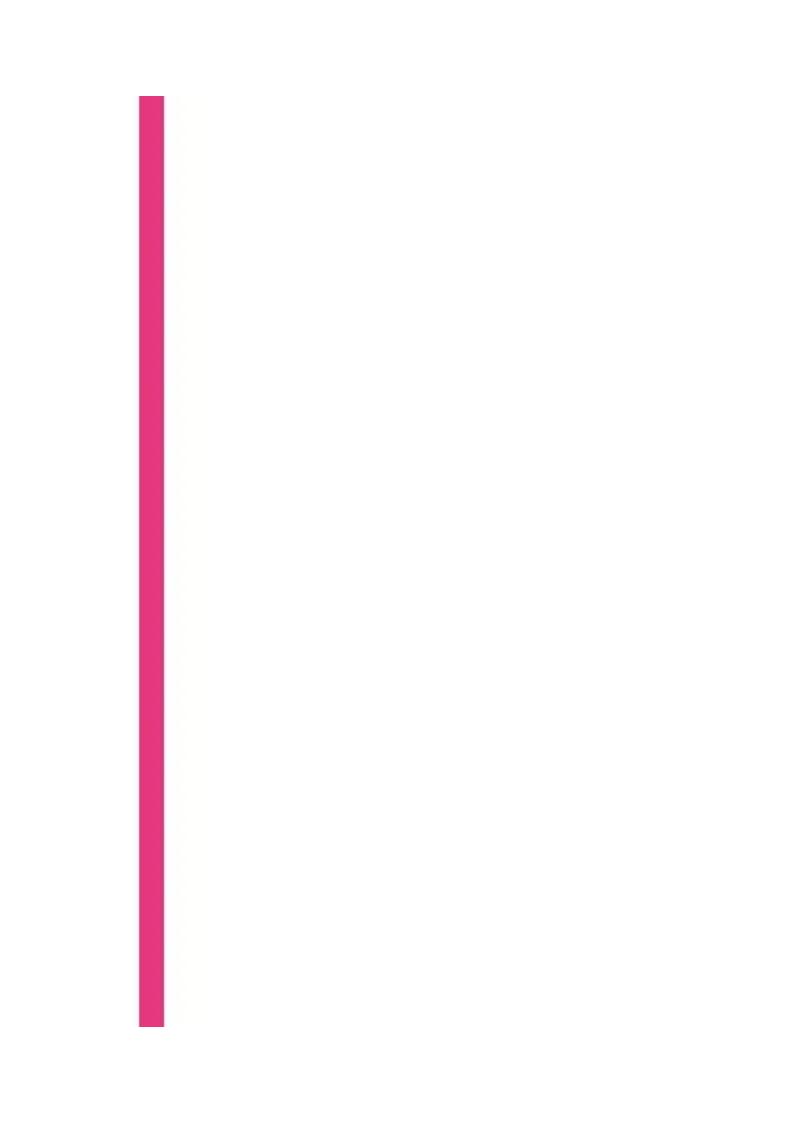


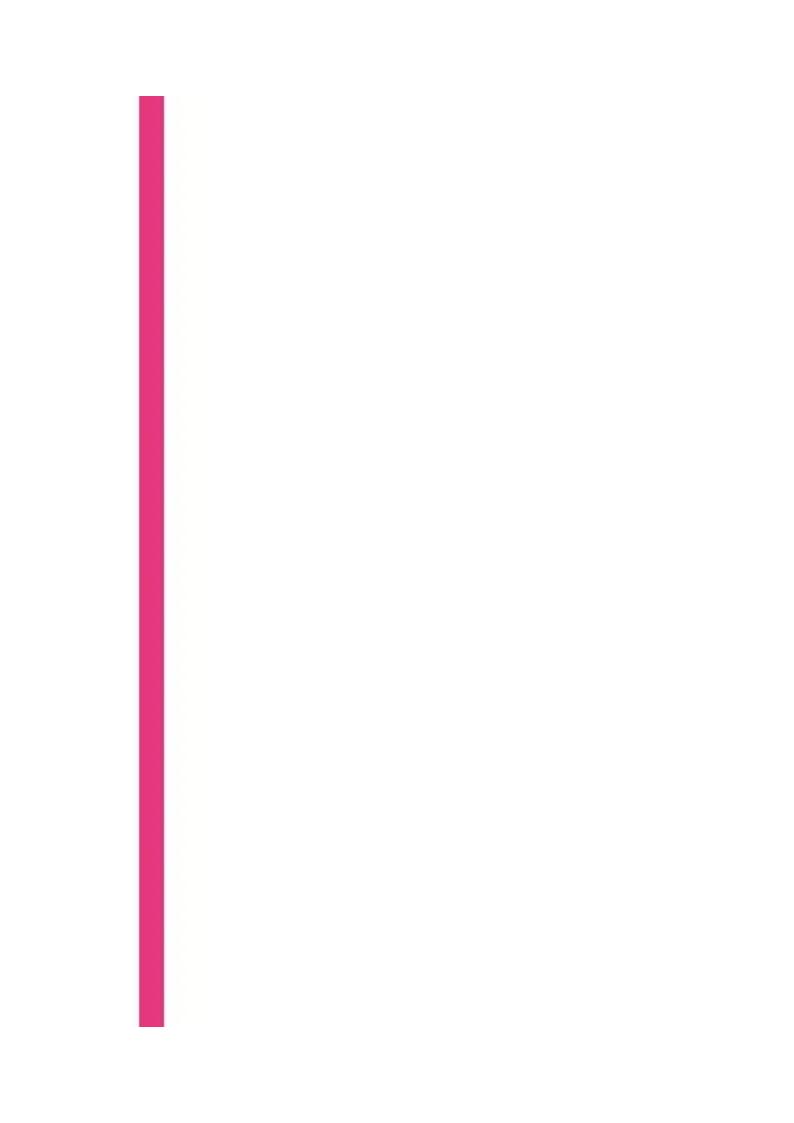


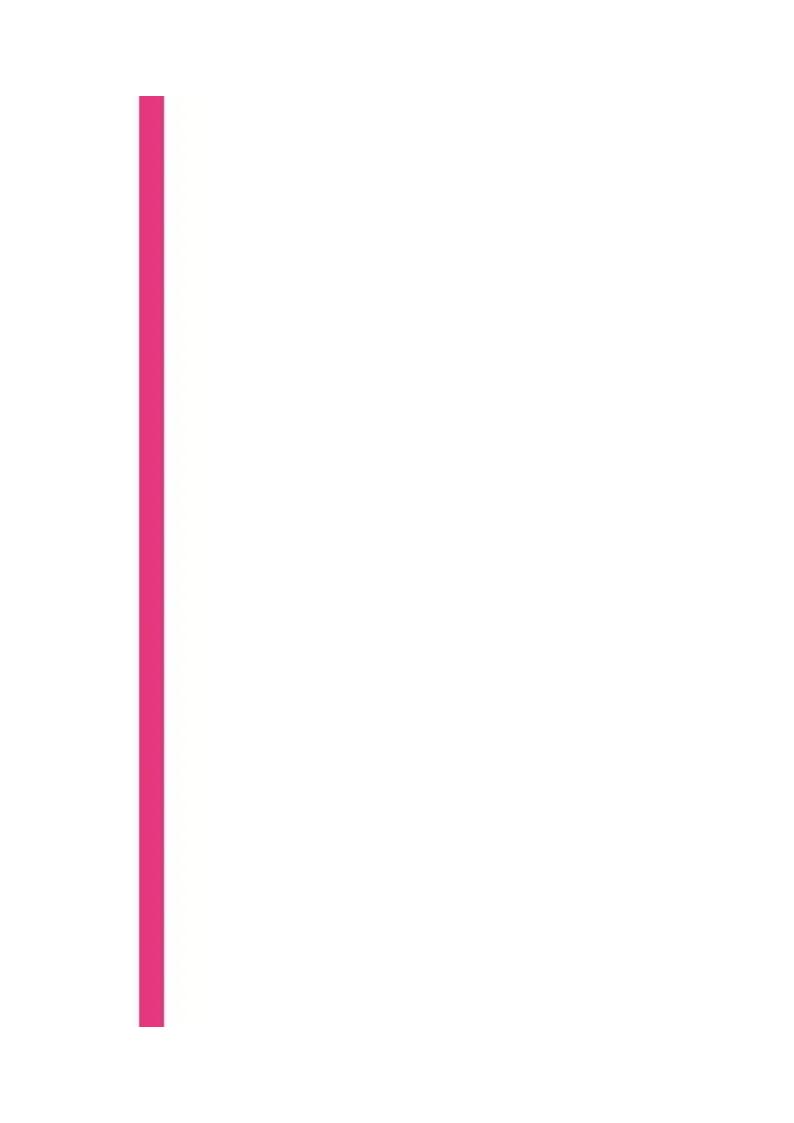
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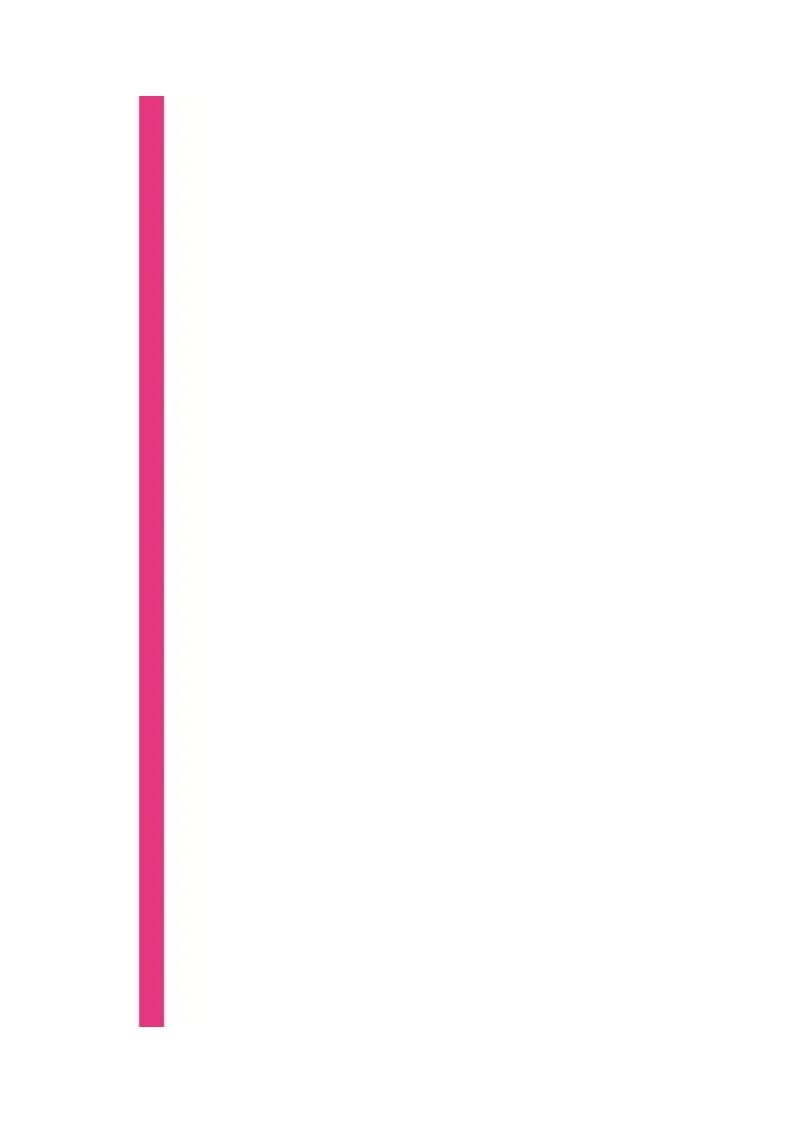




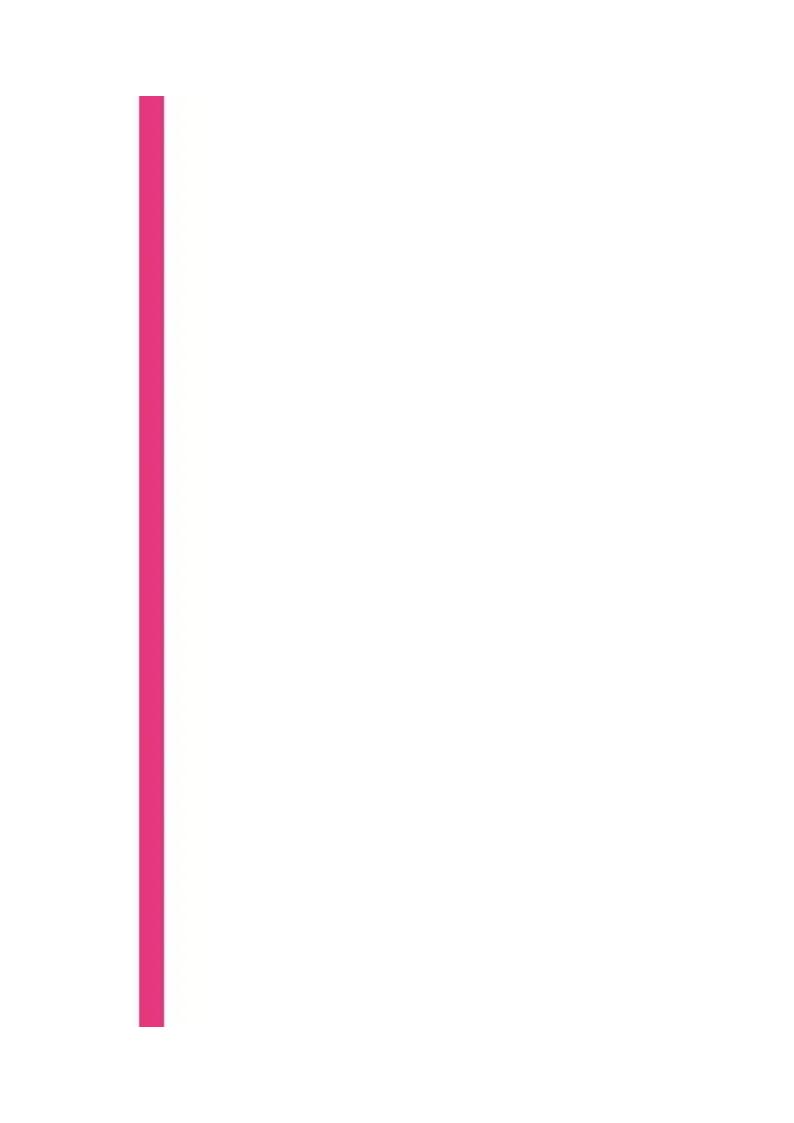




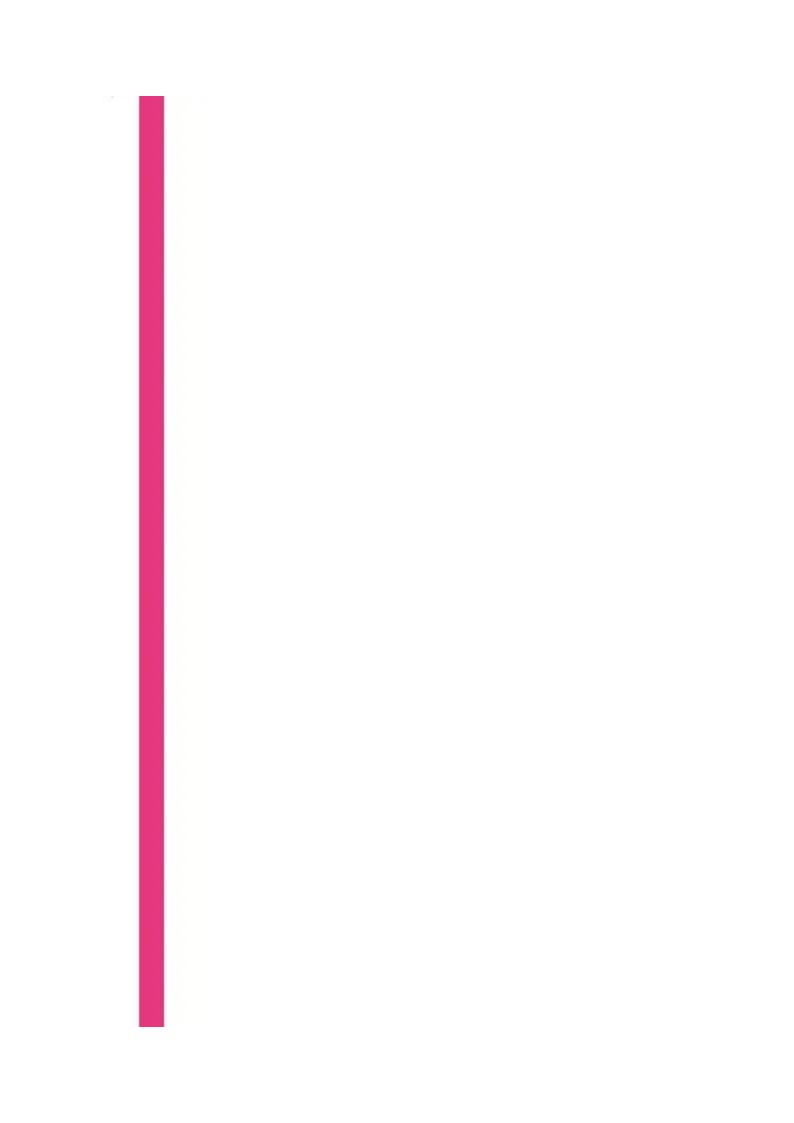








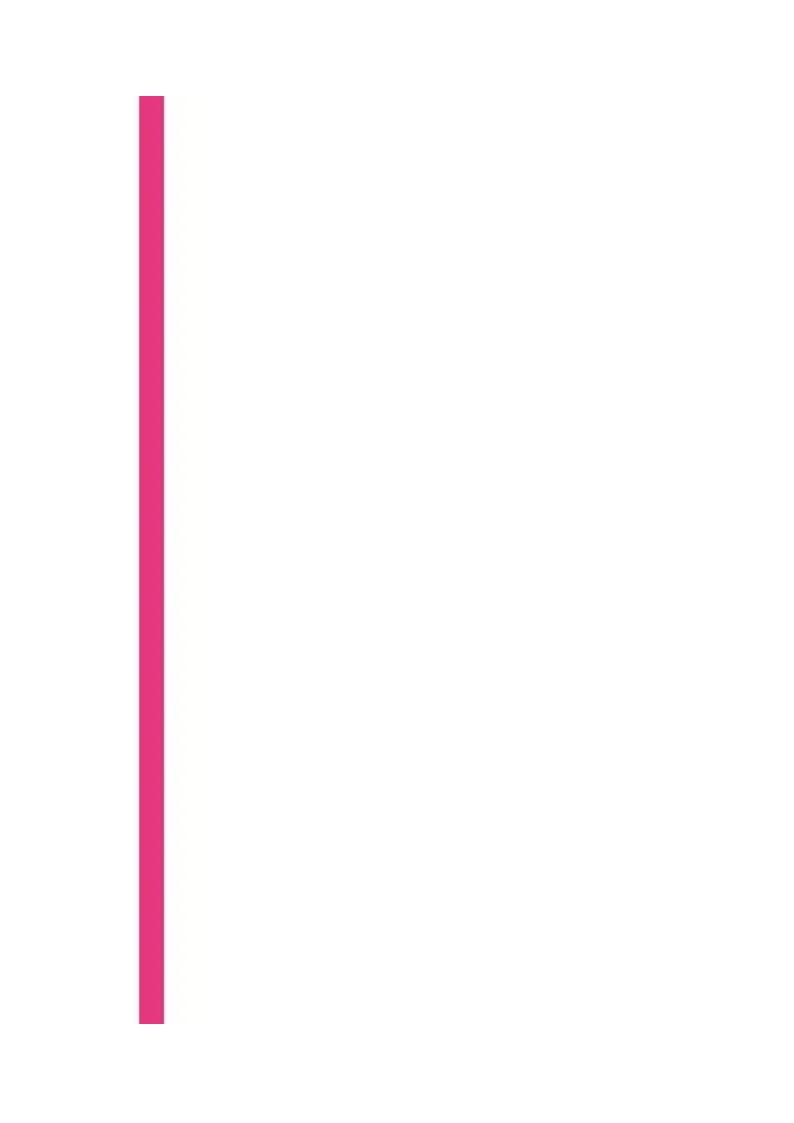






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Safe and secure communities

The future under Labour

Strengthening neighbourhood cohesion will be a key priority for the next Labour government, as every

person and every family has a basic right to feel safe. It is Labour's mission to drive down crime and

anti-social behaviour, put more police in local areas, stand up for community services and empower

victims. Our communities deserve a stronger and brighter future.

Ensuring our police have the necessary resources, equipment and skills will be essential for Labour in

achieving this mission. Labour has already pledged to bring back neighbourhood policing by putting

13,000 more neighbourhood police on Britain's streets, including recruiting at least 10,000 more officers,

PCSOs and specials. This is the equivalent of giving every constituency in England and Wales 15-20 extra

neighbourhood police.

Furthermore, Labour has brought forward plans to tackle the increase in several types of serious violence,

such as knife crime. By cracking down on knife supply, such as increasing enforcement against online black

market sales, introducing heightened surveillance, hotspot policing and analysing the geographical pattern

of where knife attacks have taken place, Labour will be able to act on one of the most serious threats our

communities face.

Previously, Labour has outlined a package of measures that would help tackle the epidemic of violence

against women and girls, in a green paper published in 2021. Proposals include introducing a

new statutory minimum sentence for rape of seven years, whole life tariffs for those who rape, abduct,

and murder, as well as criminalising street harassment.

More recently, Labour has committed to rolling out specialist rape courts that would also fast-track rape

cases and better support victims, in addition to introducing a new Domestic Violence Register that would

allow for better police and law enforcement monitoring of perpetrators and help to identify offending

patterns more quickly.

This was accompanied by a pledge to deliver specialist support for victims, by putting domestic abuse

experts into 999 control rooms and rape investigation units in every force to get justice for women.

Everyone has the right to live free from fear and these are practical measures which will help tackle

the crisis.

A Labour government would advocate for and embed at every level the principle that victims should be

at the heart of our criminal justice system. It was under a Labour government that the Victims' Code was

drawn up and the post of Victims' Commissioner created. Labour will look to build on this positive record

and measures already put forward.

Labour would strengthen community sentences and create Community and Victim Payback Boards to act

on antisocial behaviour and stop more serious reoffending at source. Victims and other local representatives

will be given a role in deciding what unpaid work offenders must undertake, such as removing graffiti,

clearing wasteland or redecorating community centres.

Labour understands that public trust in our police is critical to keeping people safe, particularly among

marginalised communities and people that have been victims of discrimination. Labour has consistently

called for an overhaul of our police standards system and would introduce mandatory professional

standards for every police force, as well as reforming vetting processes.

Policing by consent is an essential

part of Britain's criminal justice system and Labour would end the postcode lottery on police standards

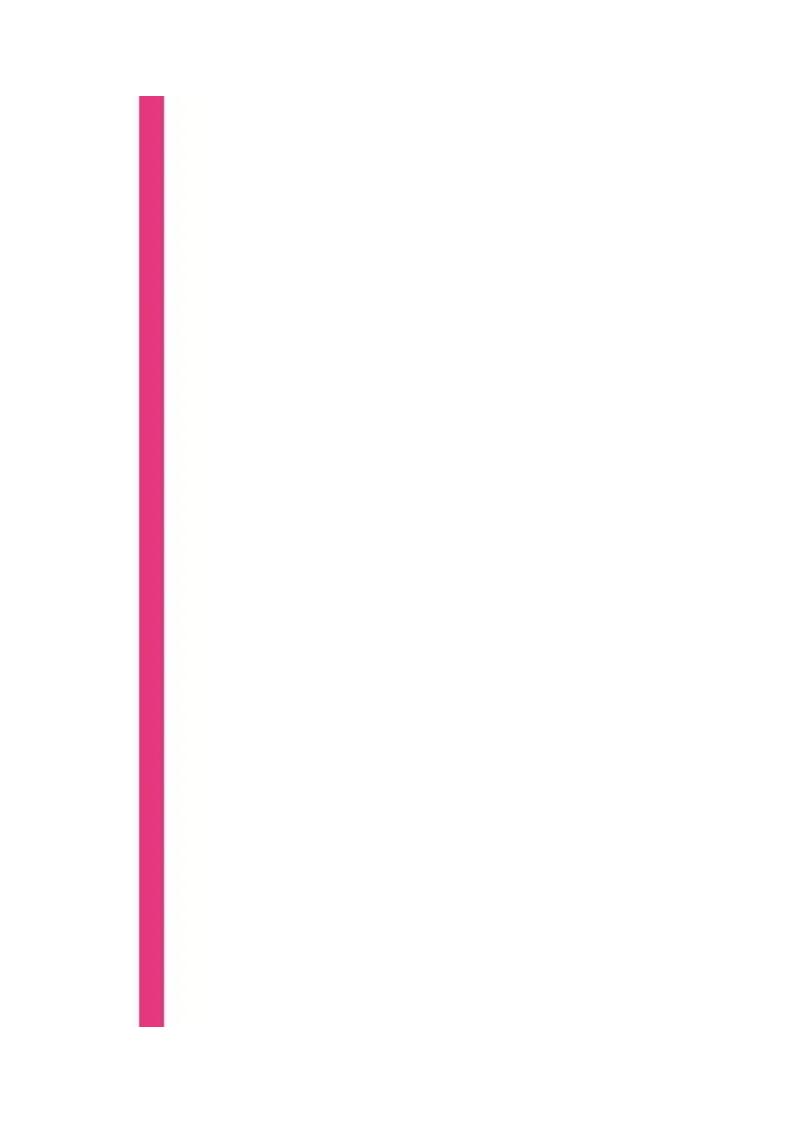
which undermines the important work we need the police to do.

Labour will also seek to tackle the root causes of the problems that our communities face. By introducing

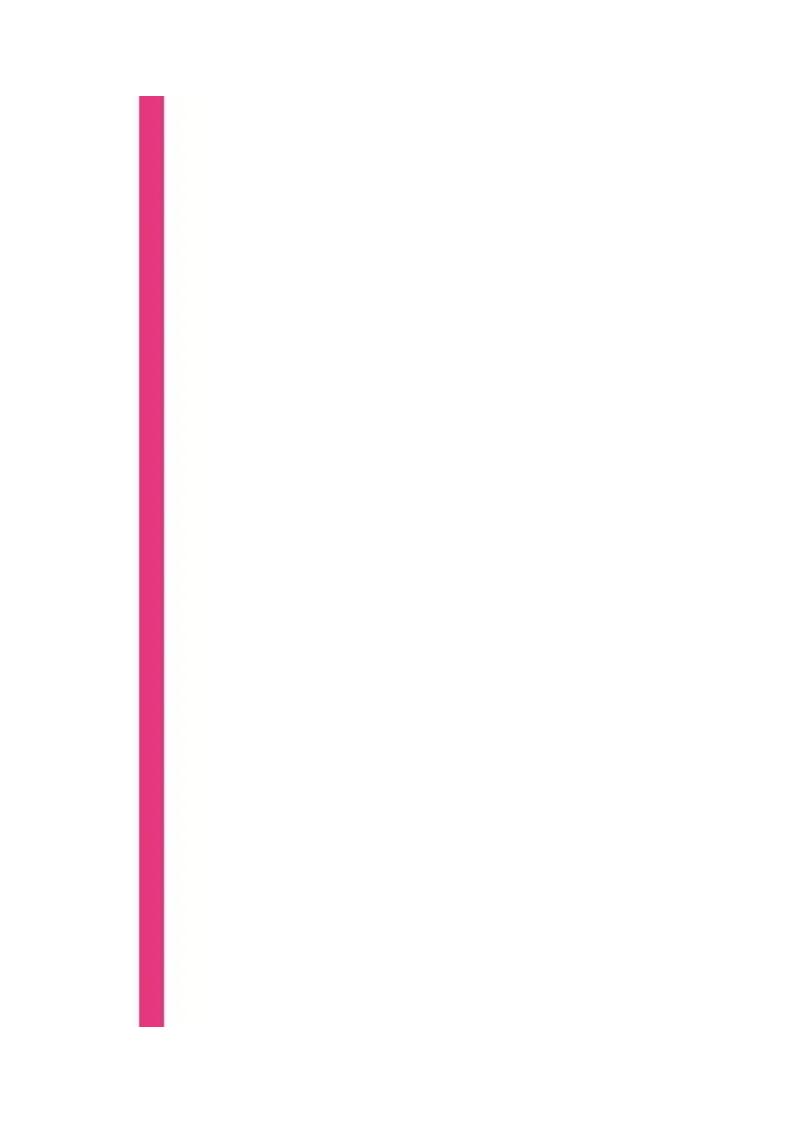
stronger preventative action involving local government, schools and community organisations, charities

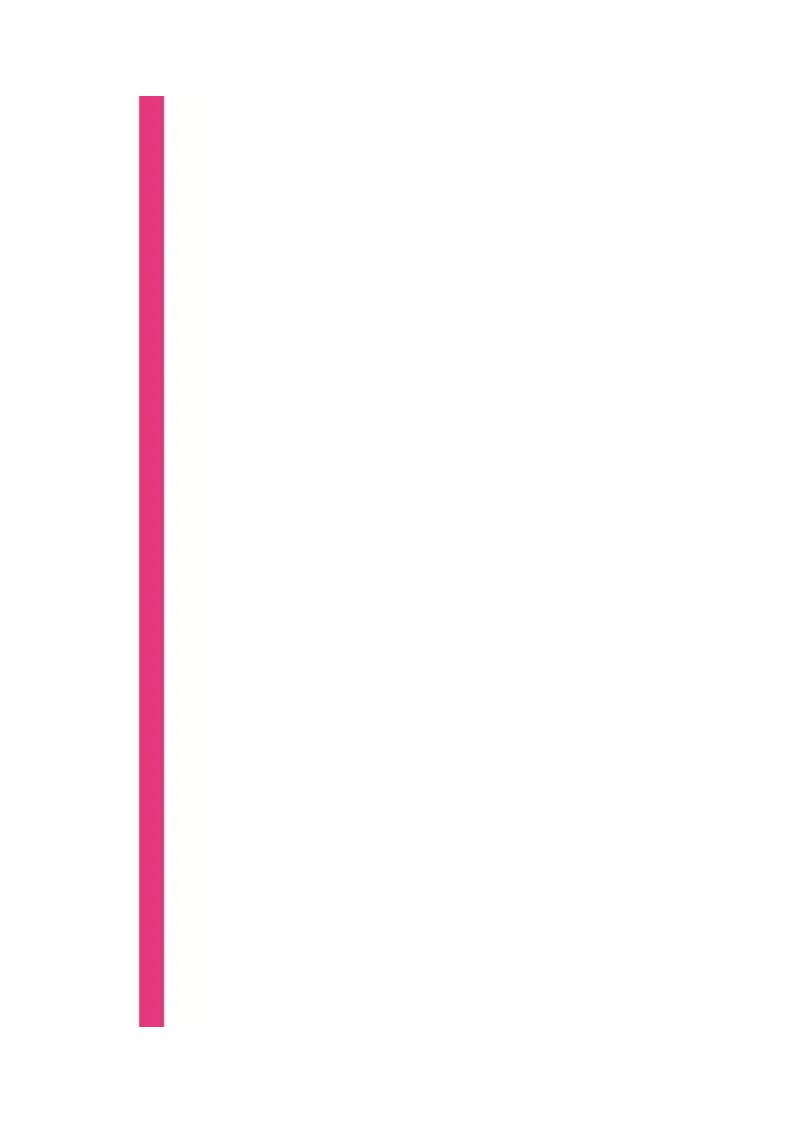


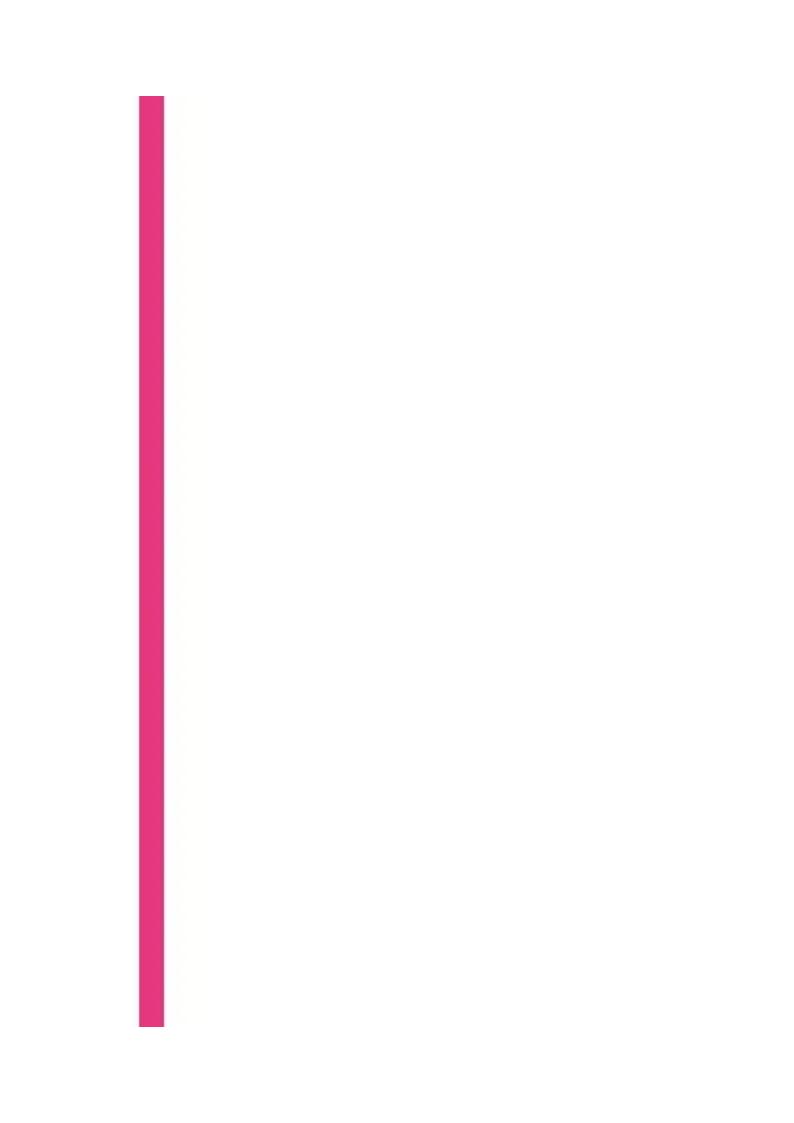
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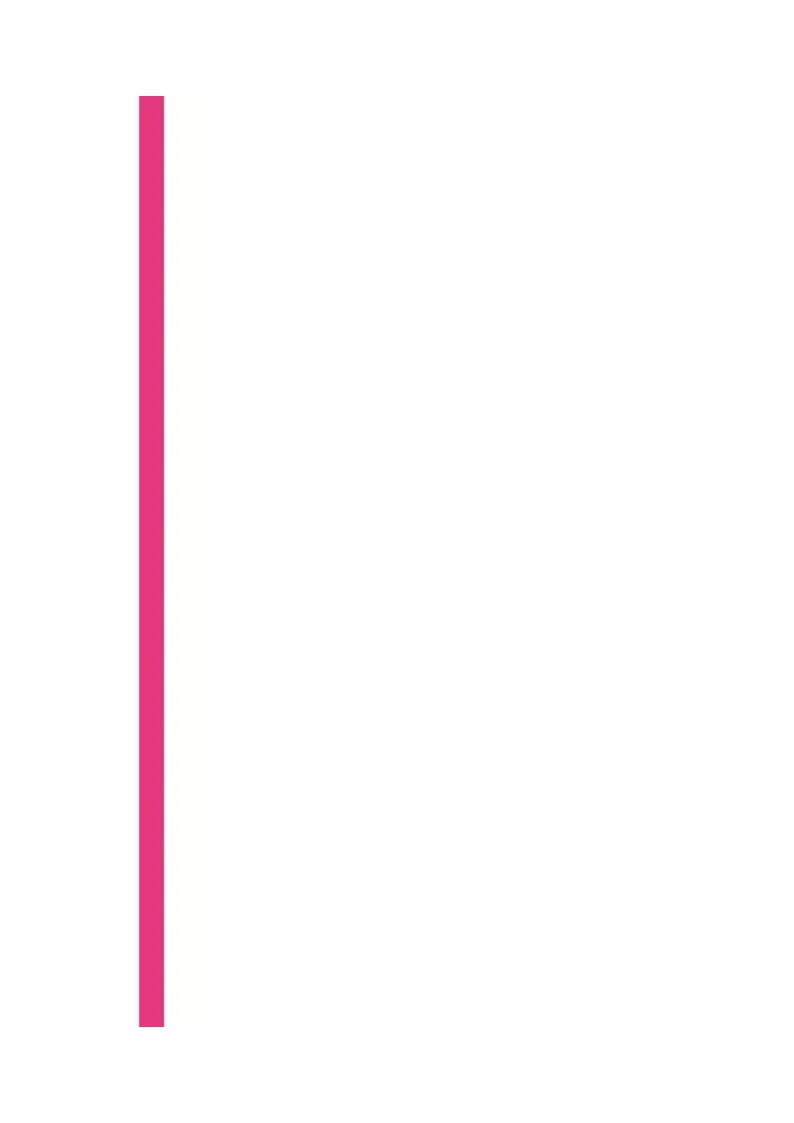




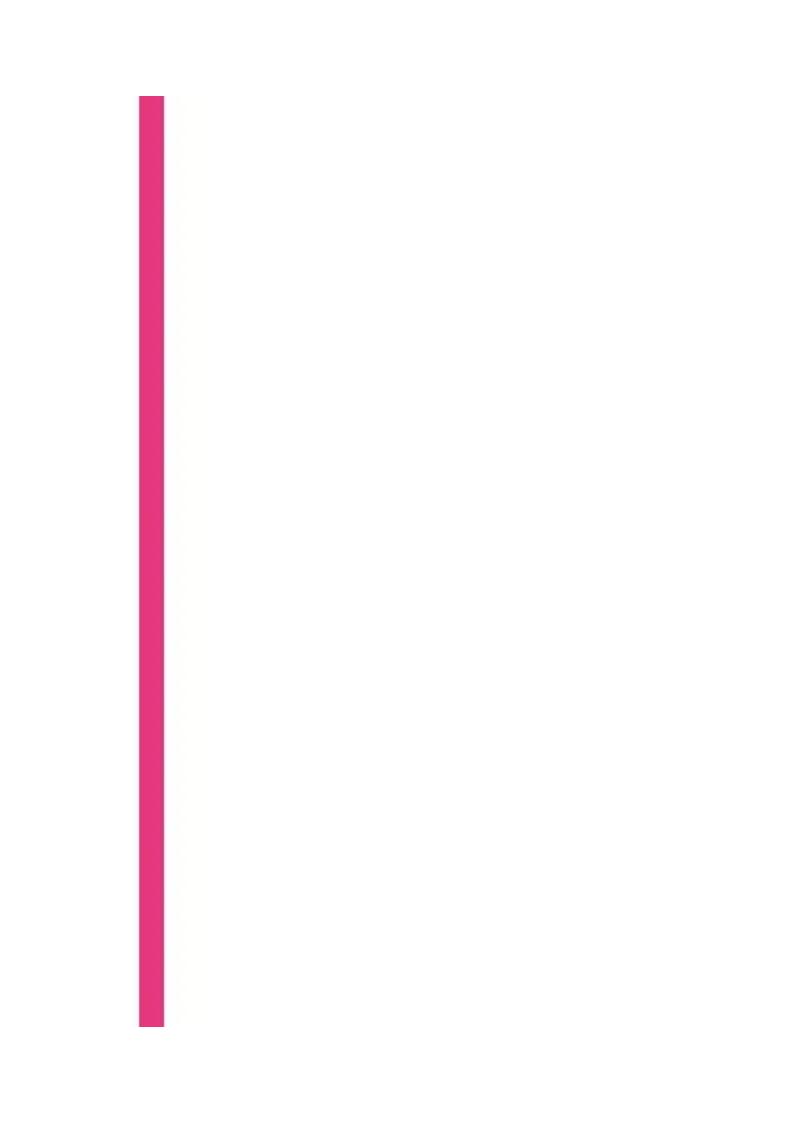




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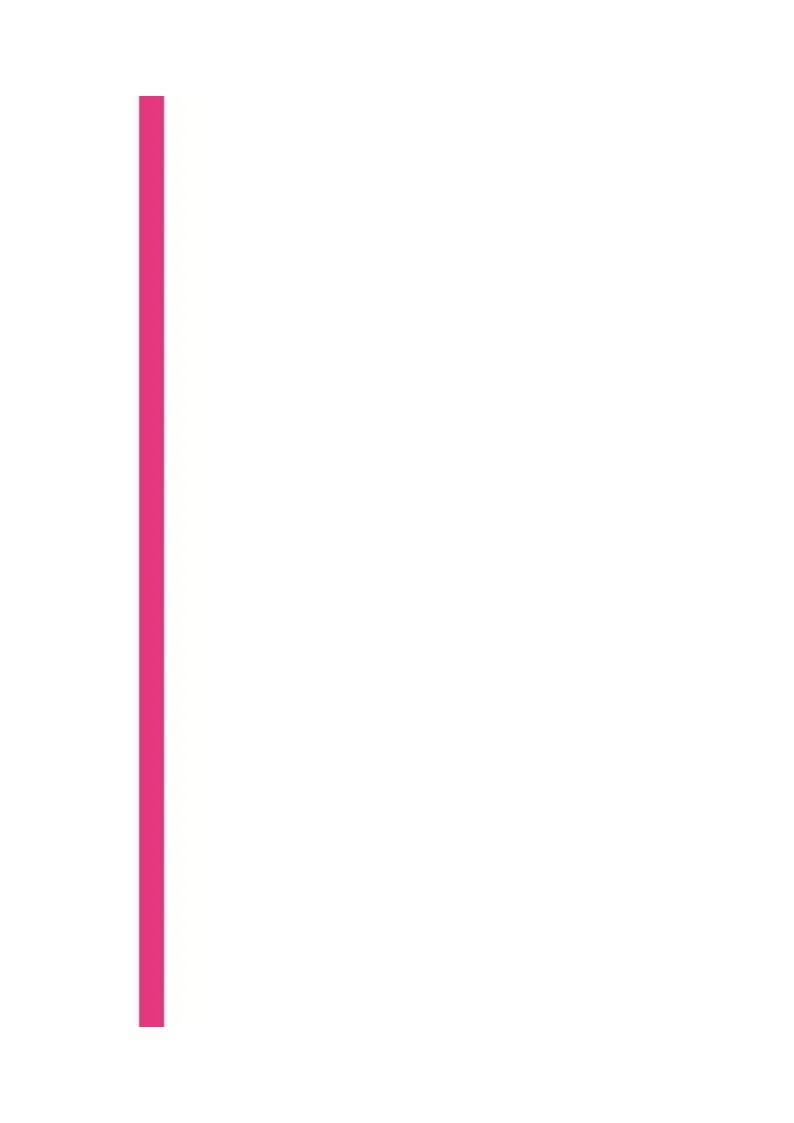
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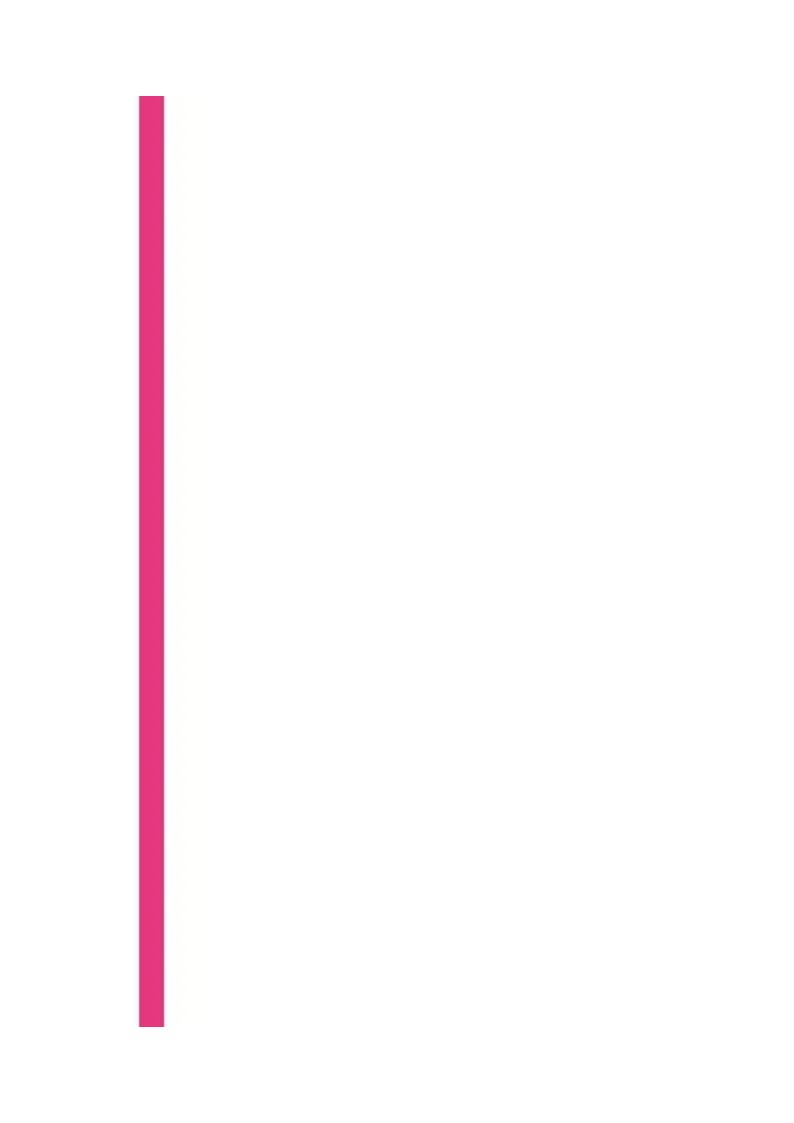


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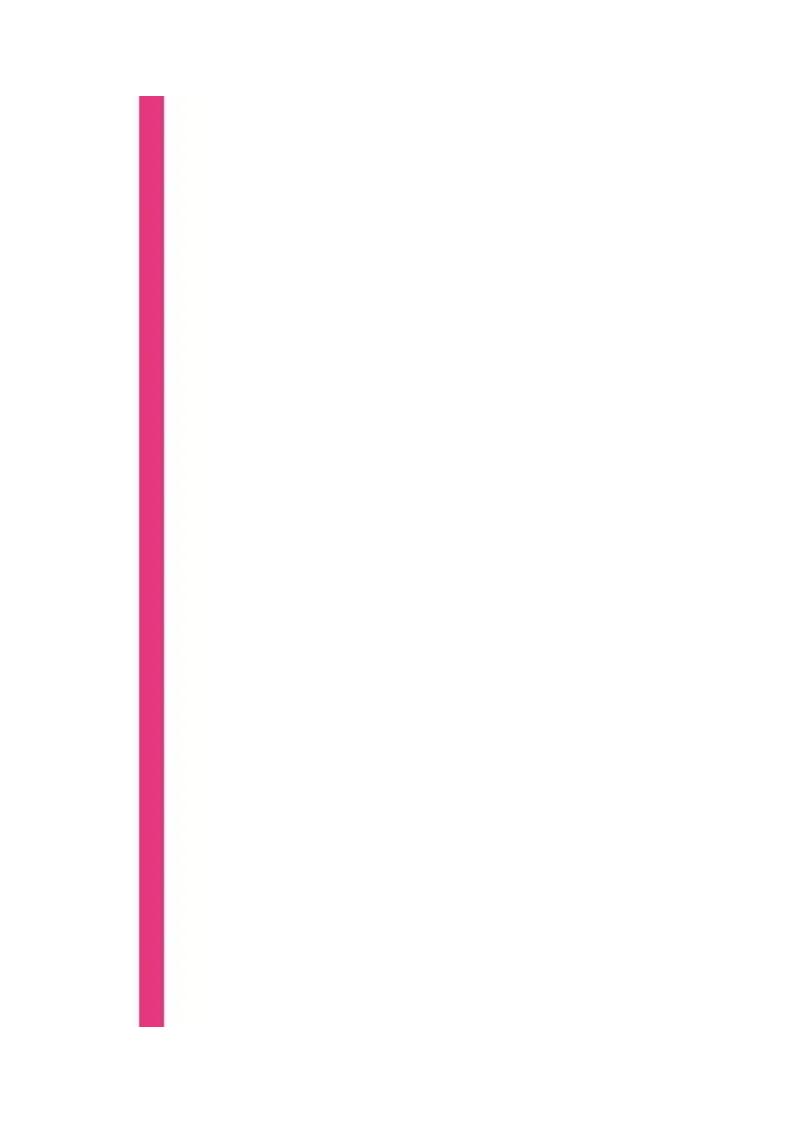




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Safe and secure communities

and frontline providers, we can urgently identify and protect those at risk of being drawn into violence.

It means restoring youth projects and treatment services, building upon the positive work Labour councils

are already doing around community cohesion and intervention.

To ensure that the increased police workforce can be as effective as possible, we must also understand the

challenges anti-social behaviour presents to our communities and how agencies can work best together

to ensure safe and secure communities. The commission would welcome respondents' thoughts on how

supporting community-led strategies in tackling youth violence can encourage people to reintegrate and

take pride in their local community.

Giving local people more control over their local area can help us tackle crime, build community safety,

and increase political engagement. A Labour government will introduce a Take Back Control Act within the

first King's Speech to establish clear frameworks for local leaders to request, negotiate and take on powers

over economic policymaking, establishing a presumption towards moving

power our of Westminster and

ensuring local areas can bid for any powers that have already been devolved elsewhere.

Following the publication of the report by the Commission on the UK's Future, chaired by former Prime

Minister Gordon Brown, we must consider how devolution and constitutional reform can act as another

tool in driving community participation in politics. Advocating for the transfer of power from Westminster

to the people and their local areas will be a key pledge for Labour and the commission would welcome

respondents' thoughts on the recommendations contained within the report.