

Safer communities

Crime creates fear and insecurity. We can only live happy and fulfilled lives if we know that we are safe, and that we are not at risk of violation of our person or property.

For too many people in our country that is not the reality they see in their communities. Neighbourhood policing, the vital building block of British policing, is at risk of being destroyed. Anti-social behaviour is too often tolerated, rather than dealt with. Violent crimes have gone up, but fewer violent criminals are being caught. Far too many victims of child sex abuse are being let down by the services that are supposed to keep them safe.

Labour believes British policing is at its best when it is rooted in local communities, proactively preventing crime, rather than simply reacting to emergencies.

We will protect neighbourhood policing. By making different choices – to abolish Police and Crime Commissioners, end the subsidy of firearms licenses, and mandate police forces to work closer together – we will be able to safeguard over 10,000 police officers for the next three years. This will be backed up by a new statutory Local Policing Commitment, guaranteeing neighbourhood policing in every community.

We will strengthen community safety partnerships to give local people a role in setting priorities for neighbourhood policing and a say over the appointment of local police commanders.

To raise standards within policing, all police officers will be required to become Chartered Officers, holding a registration with the College of Policing, and able to be struck off for serious misconduct, just as doctors and lawyers can be. A new Police Standards Authority will replace the discredited Independent Police Complaints Commission. And we will work with the police to improve ethnic minority recruitment so that the police better reflect the communities they serve.