

The next part of Labour's plan is preventing crime occurring in the first place. We will nip anti-social behaviour in the bud by making offenders put right the wrong they have done, with payback orders replacing low-level cautions. And we will ensure staff who work with the public are given greater protection, with tougher penalties for those who assault them.

The last Labour Government's reforms of youth justice, which required agencies to collaborate in preventing youth offending, reduced both youth crime and the numbers of young people in prison. The next Labour Government will extend this model, piloting a new approach to 18 to 20-year-old offenders, incentivising local authorities, police and probation services to work together to identify those at risk of drifting into criminal activity and, where possible, divert them into a more constructive way of life. And we will work to embed restorative justice right across the youth justice system.

We know drug addiction continues to be a major cause of crime. We will ensure drug treatment services focus on the root causes of addiction, with proper integration between health, police and local authorities in the commissioning of treatment. And we will ban the sale and distribution of dangerous psychoactive substances, so called 'legal highs'.

It is clear that we need a radical change in our approach to dealing with child abuse. We will bring in tough new powers enabling the police to prevent an adult from contacting or communicating with a child if there is evidence of abuse, and strengthen the vetting and barring regime. A new child protection unit will be established to work across government, driving progress in the prevention of child abuse and sexual exploitation.

We need prisons that both punish and rehabilitate people. Labour will do more to increase the amount of time prisoners spend working and learning. Prisons will be measured by how successful they are in reforming prisoners and reducing their re-offending. We will also raise professional standards amongst prison officers, including through the creation of Chartered Prison Officers, and confront the neglected problem of staff corruption.