

# Totally Tooting

news from our MP

## Sadiq Khan MP

Working hard for Balham, Earlsfield, Furzedown, Tooting and Wandsworth Common

### A message from Sadiq...

Totally Tooting is now a year old! To celebrate, I am organising an event at the House of Commons on Monday 20th November at 7.30pm open to all readers of Totally Tooting. There will be special guests and refreshments will be provided. This will be an excellent opportunity for Tooting residents to meet and ask questions. Places are limited, so if you want to come along, either email me on [sadiqkhanmp@parliament.uk](mailto:sadiqkhanmp@parliament.uk) or write to House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Remember to check that you are on the electoral register—this is vital in order to be able to vote in local and national elections. Registration forms have recently been sent out by Wandsworth Council. If you have any queries, then call Electoral Services on 020 8871 6023.

Remember to check my website at [www.sadiqkhan.org.uk](http://www.sadiqkhan.org.uk) for more information about what I have been up to!



## Earlsfield Station Update

Sadiq has been campaigning tirelessly for much needed improvements at Earlsfield Station.

Local residents have raised concerns about access to the platforms and security at the station, and Sadiq has been working with South West Trains, who manage the station to find ways to improve the services there.

The latest breakthrough has been the installation of the first ever Disabled Person's help point and new ticket machines in the station.

Sadiq commented: "The help point will allow a disabled passenger to

order a taxi, at no extra cost, to the next accessible station along their journey route. Many disabled residents have never been able to use Earlsfield station, because passengers have to climb stairs to access the platforms."

New ticket machines have been installed and these are quicker, take credit cards and will enable passengers to buy tickets to every destination in London. Other improvements have been made with resurfacing the stairs, better lighting in the foyer and new handrails.



Sadiq unveiling the new Disabled Help point and the new ticket machine at Earlsfield Station.

## Footballs for Fircroft

Sadiq Khan, MP for Tooting, presented Fircroft Primary School with a variety of new footballs.

Sadiq is a member of the UK Parliamentary Football Club, and was invited to donate footballs to a primary school within his constituency.

Sadiq commented: "Anyone who knows me will be aware that I am a huge football fan, and I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to donate a set of 17 footballs to a primary school within my constituency."

"I am sure that the school will make full use of these footballs, and that the pupils will enjoy playing with them. We might have a budding Steven Gerrard, Wayne Rooney or Rachel Yankey amongst the pupils at Fircroft Primary!"



## Medal for Tooting's veterans

Sadiq has recently launched a campaign to encourage veterans in Tooting to apply for their UK Armed Forces Veteran Lapel Badge.

All veterans in Tooting are real heroes and we must ensure that their dedication and commitment is never forgotten.

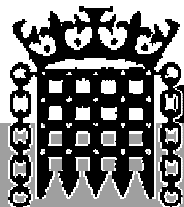
Sadiq commented: "The Veterans Medal is a survivors' badge, to be worn on civilian attire. This is only a small token of the huge debt we owe the wartime generation, but is a really good opportunity for us to give our thanks to those who served. I would like everyone in

Tooting who is entitled to the medal to apply for theirs."

Men and women who served in HM Armed Forces up to and including 31st December 1959 are entitled to the Medal, as well as widows and widowers who are in receipt of a War Widows/Widowers Pension.

To apply, ring Sadiq's office on 020 7219 6967. Sadiq will process the application on your behalf.





# Sadiq in Parliament— news and debates

## Round Up

- The Cabinet Office has recently published an **action plan on social exclusion**. This sets out how the government intends to change the way that help and support is delivered to the most excluded in society. A key part of the plan is to provide more family based interventions.
- In August, the **Commission on Integration and Cohesion** was launched. This will consider innovative approaches to empower communities across the country to improve cohesion and tackle extremism.
- In September, the Secretary of State for Education outlined a package of measures to continue to **improve schools**. These included using high quality phonics; new measures to improve maths skills in primary schools, and a new school Commissioner to oversee the delivery of Trust schools and academies.

## Welfare Reform Bill

**Before parliament went into recess, there was an important debate in the Chamber on the Welfare Reform Bill.**

Sadiq wasn't called to speak in the debate, but did make a few interventions. The Bill will help modernise the welfare state and to break down the remaining barriers that hold people back from the world of work.

The legislation will replace incapacity benefit with a new employment and support allowance.

Housing benefit in the private sector will also be replaced by the Local Housing Allowance which is already being piloted in Wandsworth.

Sadiq said: *"There is a clear link between dependency and deprivation across the country – the current system means that people tend to become trapped on incapacity benefit, and the Government is determined to try to make the reality of employment an opportunity for all."*



## Rights at Work

**On 1<sup>st</sup> October, a set of new rights were introduced for people at work.**

Employment relations have improved markedly over the past few years – employees have new rights – like the right to information and consultation on major changes in the workplace, improved rights for part time workers.

The most recent changes outlaw age discrimination at work; increase paid maternity leave; and increase the level of the national minimum wage.

The **age discrimination laws** will protect workers of all ages from discrimination in the Workplace – in recruitment, training and promotion; and give employees the right to request working beyond retirement age.

**Statutory maternity pay is increasing from six months to nine months**, and there will be 'Keeping in Touch' days for new mothers to stay in touch with developments at work.

The **National Minimum Wage will rise to £5.35 an hour for adults**. Prior to the introduction of the minimum wage, wages of as little as £1.20 an hour were common and legal.

## Out and About in Tooting...



Read more about Sadiq's activities in the constituency and parliament on his blog:

[www.sadiqkhan.org.uk/blog/sadiqblog.htm](http://www.sadiqkhan.org.uk/blog/sadiqblog.htm)

## Thames Water leaks

**Sadiq recently spent an evening with Thames Water to understand what work goes into finding and fixing leakage problems.**

Thames Water has thirteen two man teams working to find leaks in Tooting alone, and have fixed 1085 leaks so far this year. Thames Water have been set a target to reduce leakage to 725 million litres a day by 2009/10.

Sadiq commented, *"It is important that we all make an effort to save water – the amount of water that can be saved a day equates to over 350 swimming pools. If anyone wants to report a leak on the street they can also call free phone 0800 714 614."*

### Visits to:

Rame Close Estate to see the contributions of young people to improve the environment on the estate; Age Concern AGM; South Thames College; All Saints Church; Kumon Centre; Dancing Tooting event in Samaj Hall; St Anselm's RC Primary School; Tooting Lido for the Centenary celebrations; Furzedown Project; Balham Station to present an award for security and safety; St George's for the Macmillan Coffee Morning; Furzedown Primary School.

### Meetings with:

Tubelines to inspect maintenance work on Northern Line; Threshold Housing to discuss their current projects; Transport for London; representatives of the Sri Lankan Islamic Forum; representatives from the neonatal clinic at St George's; headquarters of Wandsworth Community Transport; public meeting to discuss the double murder in Tooting Bec.