



# HOLYROOD UPDATE

## From Wendy Alexander MSP

Your constituency MSP for Paisley North

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NOVEMBER 2005

### EVENTS IN PAISLEY NORTH...

- Sanctuary Housing Opening at Shortroods
- Attended Paisley North Community Council meeting
- Visited local pensioners to highlight Dignity in retirement booklet
- Opened Little Flowers Nursery – Renfrew
- Attended Renfrew Record Club 'Desert Island Discs'
- Attended Erskine Bridge Tolls meeting
- Induction of new Bishop of Paisley
- Pre Christmas visit to Royal Mail staff at Underwood Road
- Donation Presentation to East Fulton Primary School's St Andrews Day enterprise project - 'lucky bag' prizes
- Visited Home-Start Renfrewshire to present lottery award
- Linstone Housing Linwood Groundbreaking Ceremony for sheltered housing
- St Andrews Ambulance Corps visit - Renfrew to present lottery award.

### INVESTMENT IN THE NORTH END OF PAISLEY



Wendy at the opening of Sanctuary Scotland's development in Shortroods

I recently attended the opening of the first of 140 new homes for rent in the Shortroods area in the North End of Paisley. This £10 million of public investment in Shortroods is in addition to new private investment of estimated £8million by Bellway in 190

new homes currently under construction at Merksworth, also in the North End. In total the North End of Paisley will see over 350 new homes completed or started over the next year - the next step in the regeneration of the North End.

### EARN AS YOU LEARN

360 young people in Renfrewshire remained in secondary education thanks to a weekly allowance to help them stay in school.

Young people in Renfrewshire are learning more, earning more and can look forward to increased employment opportunities. The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was launched across Scotland in August 2004 for 16, 17 and 18 year olds from

families with an income of less than £30,000 a year. Young people receive a payment of between £10 and £30 a week to help them stay on in school.



Wendy & EMA recipient Nicole of Paisley

WORKING FOR PAISLEY NORTH, LINWOOD & RENFREW

# In this month's News from Holyrood...

## SUCCESS IN TACKLING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

One year on from passing the Anti social Behaviour Act, a new report has revealed that the use of our laws on ASB this year has seen individuals, communities and local agencies standing up more effectively to individuals and groups who are offending in our communities.

The strategy to combat anti social behaviour is about changing people's behaviour and not just dealing with the consequences of their actions. It focuses on involving communities in developing solutions to their problems, emphasising that parents have responsibilities for their children and making a real contribution to improve people's quality of life. This strategy and our commitment to protecting

communities is clearly working and in addition to successful measures such as ASBOs, dispersal orders and electronic tagging for young people we have seen;

- the creation of local hotlines to speed up the reporting of antisocial behaviour
- more and better trained local staff to support communities in their stand against ASB, including community wardens
- action to tackle noisy neighbours, boy racers, and graffiti
- on the spot fines for unacceptable street behaviour such as breach of the peace

More needs to be done. I will continue to support local agencies in implementing our strategy by investing £130 million between 2004-2008 for tackling ASB and promoting community safety.

## £4m Xmas present for Linwood

Linwood is getting its first ever very sheltered housing complex.

The new development is being delivered by Linstone Housing Association. It will cost over £4million and will provide 35 new homes for elderly and disabled people.

This marks the culmination of a long campaign for Linwood Community Council. The project is part funded by private borrowing from Linstone with £3m



coming from Communities Scotland. The Scottish Executive has seen the justice of Linwood's case for 35 new houses. Linstone and its design team is to be congratulated. This is a great early Christmas present for Linwood.

## Healthy school meals

Jamie Oliver has rightly started a revolution around school meals. The Scottish Executive's **Hungry for Success** initiative is revitalising school meals across Scotland.

In future there will be new nutrient standards for school meals and the linking of meals with health education and promotion. A new Scottish Health Promoting Schools Unit will help schools integrate all of the key health themes.

In the old days we used to provide free milk – now the emphasis is on fruit and vegetables. So the Executive now funds free fruit for all children in primary 1 and 2 three times per week.

## How to contact Wendy....

Write to Wendy at her constituency office:

Mile End, 12 Seedhill Road, PAISLEY, PA1 1JS

E-mail Wendy at:

Wendy.Alexander.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Attend one of Wendy's Surgeries at:

Linwood Advice Works: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month (4-5pm)

Renfrew Town Hall: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month (4-5pm)

Paisley Office: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month (4.30-5.30pm)

Ferguslie: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of month (4.30-5.30pm)

(No surgeries on public/local holidays)

## Licensing Bill passed

After a busy parliamentary session the Licensing Bill was passed. An amendment restricting off-sales opening from 10am to 10pm was agreed to.

Further more:

- A new approach to overprovision for all licensed premises is in place.
- All licensees are now to operate on a no-proof

no sale basis.

- Test purchasing is now in place. Police can use young people to try and purchase alcohol in identifying those premises breaking the law.
- A crackdown on irresponsible promotional activities has been implemented.

For implementation timetables see [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

Need help or advice? Write to Wendy at;  
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