

# Dumped Addicts Linked To Crimewave



**Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose has described the findings of a new report on drugs rehabs in Weston as "a horrifying catalogue of errors and incompetence".**

"This report is explosive. The problems it exposes are even worse than we thought," said John

"Up to 2000 individuals from outside North Somerset are coming to the area each year for drug / alcohol rehabilitation. 57% of detected dwelling burglaries, 20% of detected commercial burglaries and 14% of detected drug dealing are due to addicts sent to Weston from outside North Somerset.

"Too many agencies are simply dumping addicts in Weston and then walking away.

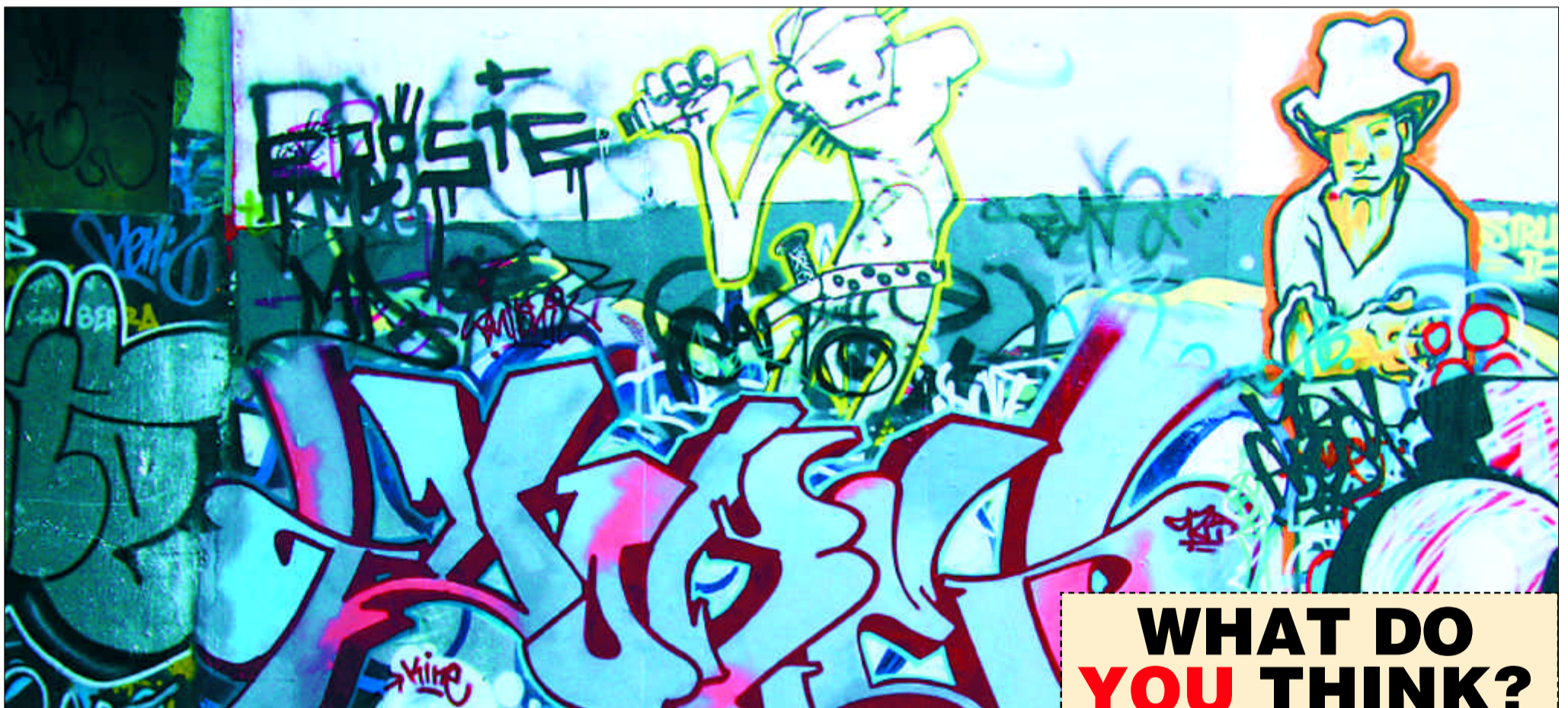
"When offenders relapse or commit crimes here in Weston, they should be sent straight

back to be dealt with by the courts in their own areas. Too often they remain in North Somerset free to commit crimes."

John continued: "This isn't fair on the addicts, nor on the people of Weston who have to live with the crime. I have taken up the issue with three different Cabinet Ministers. I have asked them to undertake full independent reviews into this terrible list."

Mr Penrose has been keeping Shadow Home Secretary David Davis MP fully briefed. He added:

"There is some good news in this report. It contains evidence of slow but steady progress by our local services in dealing with Weston's drug problems, along the lines proposed by the Cleaner Weston Campaign."



*"We need support to beat anti-social behaviour" - John Penrose*

## Police Robbed of Support

**Criminals will be the only ones celebrating after the Home Office announced cuts to the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) for Avon and Somerset Police.**

The PCSOs were a key part of plans for neighbourhood policing, which aimed to create better links with local communities and improve crime detection.

The news is a U-turn by the Government, which had initially pledged to recruit 24,000 officers across England and Wales but will now be hiring only 16,000.

Avon and Somerset will be cut back from 387 to 192 PCSOs.

The minister in charge of policing, Tony McNulty, said the original number was excessive and he had taken advice from the police service to revise the targets.

Local MP John Penrose said: "This is particularly damaging given that the Avon and Somerset force is already under funded.

"We have been robbed of new funds to recruit PCSOs. We need more police out on the beat, not less. These PCSOs were supposed to help provide a local police presence for every community in Weston and the villages. They were supposed to build links with local communities to fight crime and reduce anti-social behaviour."

John holds regular meetings with the police, council and community support groups to help sort out problems with crime and anti social behaviour. He said:

"Our local force was expecting almost 400 more uniformed staff. For once things seemed to be going in the right direction. But now the Government has got cold feet. They've done a screeching u-turn, and the only people celebrating tonight will be the criminals."

John is working with the Police Authority to fight the cuts and has written to the Minister for Police and Security calling on him to think again.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Here is your chance to tell John Penrose MP what you think about any issue. Please write your comments to John here.... (please attach extra sheets of paper if necessary)

Please complete the feedback form below and return it to:  
**John Penrose MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round**