

Breakthrough in MP's Epilepsy Campaign

A major step forward has been made in John Penrose's epilepsy campaign as the computer and video game industry has accepted the risk computer games pose to children's health and have created a new voluntary code of practice to pre-screen games to ensure they won't trigger an epileptic fit

The campaign was launched after a constituent contacted John when her 10-year-old son suffered a sudden epileptic seizure playing a video game on a standard Nintendo handset.

John said: "I'm delighted that the industry have listened to the scientific evidence and accepted that there are serious health risks. Many parents will have been shocked to discover that a single game can trigger such a serious condition amongst people who are at risk.

"Television broadcasts are already screened in exactly this way so there's no reason why the same approach shouldn't apply to computer and video games too. The technology already



exists and some responsible game manufacturers, such as Ubisoft, are already using it to check their games. But there are many who don't and this leaves children and teenagers at risk."

MP goes for job with a 'Difference'



■ John Penrose helps out at his local Barnardo's shop (Photo: Bob Bowen)

As part of the annual Make a Difference Day MP John Penrose traded in his day job to volunteer at Barnardo's in Worle

John helped store managers Anita White and Bev Bell stack shelves, sort through donated clothes and serve customers at the till.

John said: "Volunteering in your local Barnardo's

shop really can make a difference. Income from these shops helps to maintain vital projects which offer support to so many vulnerable children and their families."

Closure of town's tax office a major blow to Weston



■ Cross party support: John Penrose with local Councillors campaigning against the closure

Despite John Penrose's strong cross-party campaign, with backing from local Councillors, employees and customers, the town's tax office will be closed

John said: "Closing the branch will have a serious impact on Weston. Employees will be forced to commute to Bristol and, for those that can't, they will lose their jobs. It will also impact on customers who use the office and it's bound to have a negative effect on Weston's economy too.

"Instead of closing the Weston office, and consolidating all the local offices

into Bristol, it should have been expanded and used as the new regional centre instead. Office space in Weston is cheaper than in Bristol so the Government would have achieved the cost-savings they're after, and the town would have gained some much-needed local jobs. It would have reduced strains on Junction 21 of the M5 too."

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)

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return to
John Penrose, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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