



### **e-UPDATE #101 - 31.08.2021**

Hard to believe, but September is almost upon us!

I hope you have been able to have a break - particularly well earned by Cheltenham's pupils, teachers and parents after the GCSE and A Level results achieved at the end of a very difficult academic year.

The undoubted highlight of this update is the fantastic news on Cheltenham General. After a strong (and long!) campaign behind the scenes, I am delighted that **Cheltenham General has been awarded £39.6 million in new capital funding**. This will fund [two new operating theatres](#), a day centre and much besides (details below). After we came together as a community to secure the re-opening of the A&E, this is another vote of confidence in the hospital's future. It is also a shot in the arm for local medical practitioners as they respond to enormous levels of demand. As always, they have our sincere thanks.

There are updates too on [Afghanistan](#) of course. I and my office have spent a good deal of time in recent days working to get eligible people to safety. I am really grateful to so many local people who escalated concerns about specific individuals. In response to queries about how best to help new arrivals, I have collated some information below which I hope is helpful.

Our troops have worked incredibly hard in extremely challenging conditions. I know the people of Cheltenham will join me in thanking them for the exceptional job they did. The RAF for example flew 261,000 miles - further than the distance to the moon.

There are updates too on everything from Gloucestershire being awarded [additional funding](#) for tackling violence against women and girls, to work with [Gloucestershire's mental health crisis team](#) and the Police and Crime Commissioner's announcement that he will provide Gloucestershire Constabulary with [another 300 officers](#).

In my Prisons Minister capacity, I have visited prisons from North Wales to London, and have announced a major expansion of the [Clink Kitchens Scheme](#) to a further 25 prisons by the end of the year - to help prisoners leave prisons with NVQs they can use to enter

the hospitality sector.

But in some ways the greatest highlight for me over the last couple of weeks has been attending Cheltenham events, and seeing our community bursting into life once more. I have seen so many smiles and so much positivity. As I mentioned to some at the Cheltenham Bowling event on BH Monday (in aid of Linc), it feels as if someone has plugged Cheltenham back in and switched us on!

Finally, a plug if I may to brilliant Cheltenham residents David Fahey and Ruth Carr, who are running the Cheltenham Half and the London Marathon in support of Guide Dogs. Do support them if you can - details below.

Thank you for reading.

Best wishes,



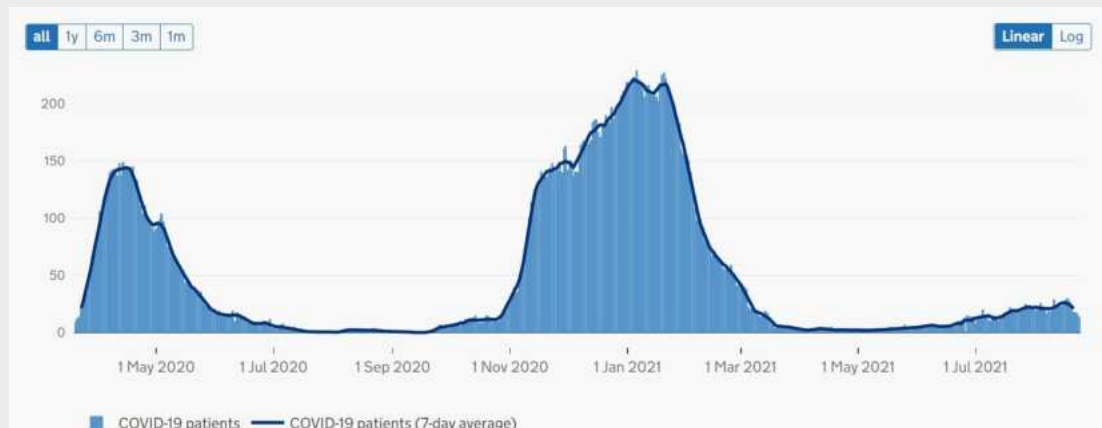
**Alex Chalk MP**

*In line with data protection regulations, Alex Chalk's office processes constituents' data for policy and casework purposes under the lawful basis of public task. In instances where this lawful basis is not sufficient and explicit consent is required, a member of staff will get in touch with you to establish consent. You can find the full privacy notice on Alex's website [HERE](#)*

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**COVID UPDATE**

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[Daily count of confirmed COVID-19 patients in CGH and GRH. Source: DHSC]

Given the effectiveness of the vaccine in weakening the link between infections and deaths, from this week, for the time being this update will not list the number of cases in Cheltenham and Gloucestershire. Instead, the update will focus on the number of hospitalisations and deaths.

#### **COVID Hospital Patients:**

As at 25 August, there were 18 COVID-positive patients in Cheltenham General and Gloucestershire Royal hospitals, with two in critical care.

#### **Gloucestershire Death Registrations Mentioning COVID-19:**

3 in last 7 days (as at 20 August).

#### **Covid Virtual Ward Patients:**

COVID virtual wards support safe and earlier discharge of coronavirus patients from hospitals. When moving from hospital to a virtual ward people are given a pulse oximeter and supporting information to monitor their oxygen levels at home.

As at 27 August, there were 147 patients on the Covid *virtual* ward. Within the last 7 days there have been 93 patients referred to the ward, 73% of patients are over 50 years old.



[British troops returning home from Afghanistan]

### **AFGHANISTAN UPDATE**

Summary of Operation PITTING:

- ✓ Total people evacuated under OP PITTING since Aug 14: **over 15,000 (including more than 2,100 children)**
- ✓ Total evacuated in one 24hr period: **1,988**

This includes ➡

- ARAP: **7,311**
- British Nationals: **3,557**
- Other UK eligible persons: **226**
- Other nationals we have helped: **1,185**

### **The evacuation effort had three strands:**

**First**, that we advised all UK nationals to leave Afghanistan back in April. Many did so.

The **second strand** of the evacuation, beyond British nationals, was (and is) the ARAP programme. This was also set up by the Defence Secretary in April, to help those who worked for us, and who now face the risk of retribution precisely because of the loyalty that they showed to our country.

The **third strand** of the evacuation scheme is the plan to provide a bespoke asylum offer to settle 20,000 Afghan refugees over five years. This is *in addition to* the ARAP programme.

### **Resettlement Programme**

The end of the airlift is not be the end of the resettlement programme. The MOD and Home Office are doing important work on Phase 2, to ensure there are other routes to the UK and alleviate some of the desperation in the queue.

### **Gloucestershire Support**

I have been so grateful to those here in Cheltenham who have offered support for those coming from Afghanistan. A webpage has been set up here which I hope is helpful: <https://www.gov.uk/help-refugees...>

Alternatively you may want to look up GARAS, a brilliant local organisation which does important work in offering relief and support to those coming to Gloucestershire - <https://www.garas.org.uk/what-can-you-do-to-help/>

Gloucestershire Strategic Housing Partnership, which is made up of the local authorities in Gloucestershire, have pledged to resettle 35 households under the Home Office Locally Employed Staff Resettlement Scheme in a project partnered by GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers).

The Partnership is looking for properties with two or three bedrooms to help rehome refugees coming to Gloucestershire. If you are interested, or know of anyone locally who could support the resettlement scheme, I have been advised that you should contact Stuart Dean at: [stuart.dean@Gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.dean@Gloucester.gov.uk) or telephone 01452 396917.

Further information on the scheme can be found here: <https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/latest-news/appeal-for-houses-to-help-afghans-who-supported-british-army/>

### **OTHER WAYS TO HELP**

*Set out below are some of the other opportunities to assist:*

#### **Offer Space to Refugees**

Go to [Refugees at Home](#) or [Room for Refugees](#). *Refugees at Home has had so many applications that it is now prioritising London, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, Glasgow, Birmingham, Bristol, Canterbury, Sheffield and Oxford.*

#### **Donations**

[British Red Cross](#) are appealing for donations to support refugees who are newly arrived.

The Refugee Council offers crisis advice, mental health counselling and practical support, with a particular focus on children who come to the UK alone. You can donate [here](#). You can become involved [here](#).

### **Smaller organisations**

One of the many smaller community-based organisations is **Refuweegee**, which aims to give “a warm welcome” to forcibly-displaced people arriving in Glasgow by providing welcome packs containing food and essential items. Donate [here](#).

### **Become a foster carer**

More information [here](#).

### **Donate clothes to Afghan refugees**

Care4Calais is also appealing for money to buy socks and underwear. Items can be dropped off at one of more than 150 locations across the UK.

[Care4Calais drop-off points](#)

Donations are also being accepted by local groups linked to the [Help Refugees/Choose Love](#), and [City of Sanctuary](#) charities.

Packing donations by age and size is encouraged to make sorting easier. The refugees are in particular need of shoes, coats, baby buggies and carriers and unlocked smartphones, basic toiletries and stationery. Men's clothes in particular are needed.

### **What can I do to help people in Afghanistan?**

Readers are [invited to support the Halo Trust](#), which is clearing landmines and explosive devices from Afghanistan. The British charity has a team of 2,500 local residents sweeping the country. It has had a constant presence there since 1988, including in the years when the Taliban last ruled, and has been told by them that it can continue its work.

Several emergency relief charities are appealing to the public for donations. The IRC is working to raise \$10 million to ensure their teams can continue to deliver lifesaving [aid across Afghanistan](#). Among other services, they provide safe learning spaces to displaced families for community-based education.

You can donate [here](#).

[Afghanaid distributes kitchen kits](#) so people can cook and safely store food, as well as solar-powered lamps and stoves and gas cylinders.

The Turquoise Mountain Trust has run schools and a health clinic in Afghanistan for 15 years and has vowed to continue operating. Rory Stewart, the former Conservative MP and international development secretary, has highlighted the work of the organisation and pointed towards a [crowdfunding campaign](#). So far it has reached £166,000 of its £200,000 goal with a further £28,000 received through Giftaid.

### **What can I do to help Afghan women and girls?**

Women for Women International said its team was safe and “still confident” that it could work with community and religious leaders to serve the women and girls they support. The charity said a private donor was willing to match up to \$500,000 in public donations to its emergency Afghanistan programme. You can give [here](#).



POC\_1356430

Alex Chalk MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London SW1A 0AA

From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

23 August 2021

Dear Alex,

As you will know, the Government is undertaking a significant number of improvements to health services and hospitals across the country to support the local NHS to deliver transformation schemes to local health infrastructure.

This funding included a £39.5 million allocation to Gloucestershire Hospitals Site Development in your constituency. This will enable an extension and a reconfiguration to the emergency department at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, the addition of an acute medical assessment and investigation unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, two new operating theatres and day surgery facilities at Cheltenham General Hospital and a new ward at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

I know you are already working closely with Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and I am delighted to confirm that Gloucestershire Hospitals Site Development has begun construction.

I am sure you will agree this investment reaffirms the Government's commitment to the NHS staff and patients within your constituency, ensuring they will have access to world-class, state of the art facilities and care that are fit for the future.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Javid".

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

### **MAJOR NEW INVESTMENT IN CHELTENHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL**

After a long campaign behind the scenes, Alex was delighted to receive confirmation that

## **£36.5 million will be invested in Cheltenham General Hospital for brand new facilities.**

In a letter to Alex, the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid confirmed that the funding will enable two new operating theatres and day surgery facilities at CGH as well as a new ward and acute medical assessment and investigation unit at GRH.

Alex said: *"This announcement is absolutely brilliant news for Cheltenham - and Gloucestershire more generally. This extra cash is a vote of confidence in Cheltenham General, and having secured the reopening of our A&E allows us to build for the future.*

*"The new operating theatres and day surgery facilities at CGH will be a big boost as the NHS continues to tackle the backlog caused by the pandemic."*

### **INFORMATION IN DETAIL**

#### **CGH**

- **Two new operating theatres**, providing capacity to treat an additional 3,000 patients a year, and a new purpose-built Day Surgery Unit, enabling a greater number of day case operations, will be built.
- Cheltenham Radiology Department will be transformed meaning emergency patients accessing the town's A&E will benefit from faster, more accurate and **better diagnostic tests such as X-rays and MRI scans.**
- Image Guided Interventional Surgery Spoke: **A new Interventional Radiology room to provide specialist support to Urology and Oncology services**
- **Green initiatives** being introduced include LED lighting, metering to monitor energy consumption, upgrade of the building management system that controls the hospital electrical and heating infrastructure, installation of a heat pump to create heat from the environment and installation of energy efficient fans to the Trust ventilation system.
- Cheltenham **Radiotherapy Department/Oncology** Centre has benefited from **a new CT scanner and greatly improved patient area** further enhancing the Oncology Department's outstanding reputation.
- **Digital rollout including Electronic Patient Record**, Order Comms etc At the heart of this is the ability to access information about our patients quickly and easily to make accurate and informed decisions about the care we provide.





**PRISON KITCHENS**

Prisons Minister  
Alex Chalk MP

sky news 06:16 news

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern says the country is set to stay in a

[Alex speaking to SkyNews about his visit]

### **ALEX DELIVERS JOB BOOST FOR EX-OFFENDERS**

Prisons Minister Alex has stepped in to deliver a jobs boost for ex-offenders by announcing the expansion of the **Clink Kitchens Scheme** to a further 25 prisons by the end of the year - and 70 prisons over the next three years.

Already running at eight prisons, the programme sees prisoners train in professionally-run prison kitchens for up to 35 hours a week – preparing and cooking thousands of meals daily – while simultaneously working towards professional qualifications (City & Guilds NVQs) which will help them find employment on their release.

The Clink has already helped over 2,500 offenders into stable and secure jobs and the expansion is expected to support a further 2,000 prisoners

Alex said: *"Prisoners with a job on release are far less likely to reoffend – meaning if we provide the path to employment our communities can be safer."*

*"As we continue to build back safer from the pandemic, it is absolutely vital that we continue to address the root causes of crime by supporting offenders to turn their lives around – and this scheme will do precisely that for thousands of ex-prisoners."*

To watch Sky News' coverage of the announcement click [HERE](#).

## ALEX'S MINISTERIAL ROUND-UP



[Click the image above to watch a video from Alex's visit]

### **ALEX VISITS GLOUCESTERSHIRE WOMEN'S PRISON TO SEE PROGRESS ON TACKLING ADDICTION**

Alex visited HMP Eastwood Park, a women's prison in Gloucestershire.

As well as meeting the governor, prison officers and prisoners, Alex also visited the mother and baby and mental health units. He also sat down with a young, first-time, prisoner who was addicted to drugs at the time of her offence to discuss rehabilitation work in custody.

Since becoming Prisons Minister, Alex has committed to reducing the number of women in custody and working to ensure female offenders get treatment for drug addiction, support to find work and places to live, and protection from abusive relationships.

Alex said: *"It was good to see the investment into training and rehabilitation services - but also to hear from one prisoner how the support she had received from a particular prison officer had helped her quit drugs and plan her future with renewed hope.*

*"I'm grateful to prison officers who show such care and dedication. Their professionalism and*

*sense of duty makes a huge difference to prisoners' futures - at the same time driving down reoffending in the community."*



### **ALEX VISITS HMP HOLLESLEY BAY TO PUSH TO GET MORE OFFENDERS IN TO WORK**

Alex visited HMP Hollesley Bay in Suffolk to push his agenda of getting more offenders in to work.

Alex discussed his plans on getting offenders into key shortage occupations with the new governor at HMP Hollesley Bay. Following Alex's visit, abattoirs, butchers and meat processors have announced plans to link up with prisons that contain prisoners who are part of the Release On Temporary Licence (ROTL) programme to fill the 14,000 job vacancies.

After his visit, Alex tweeted: *"Really valuable visit to HMP Hollesley Bay in Suffolk. I strongly support plans from the dynamic new governor to get more offenders into key shortage occupations, from haulage to hospitality. The need is great - no time to waste!"*



### **ALEX DELIVERS FURTHER ROLLOUT OF GPS TAGGING FOR ACQUISITIVE OFFENDERS**

Alex, together with colleagues from the Home Office, has authorised the rollout of location monitoring for serious acquisitive offenders leaving prison.

Using a GPS tag, offenders' movements will be mapped against acquisitive crimes being investigated by the police, enabling the police to rule them in or out of an investigation.

This expansion of the scheme to a further **13 police forces** will take the project's coverage to **half the country**.

Alex said: "*This scheme will not only act as a deterrent, because the burglars will know they can be tracked, but also will help police solve offences which they suspect have been committed by known criminals.*"

*"Combining **prevention, deterrent and enforcement**, it will give police and probation the tools they need to keep people out of trouble in the first place."*



### **ALEX ANNOUNCES FURTHER MEASURES TO DRIVE DOWN PRISON EMISSIONS**

Alex has announced that thousands more solar panels will be fitted to prisons to help cut carbon emissions and to save taxpayers' money.

The installations are expected to cut more than 1,300 tonnes of carbon from entering the atmosphere and provide 20% of each prison's electricity. This will save around £800,000 of taxpayers' money a year.

Over 16,000 new ground mounted panels will be switched on across the prison estate, with HMPs Bullingdon, Erlestoke and Wayland lighting the way in the next few months and work ongoing to power the remaining 16 from spring next year.

Alex said: *"As we build back safer and greener from the pandemic, our prisons are playing their part in the Government's ambitious environmental plans.*

*"Alongside our wider sustainable action across the estate, including new all-electric prisons, we will ensure our goals are good for the pocket and the planet."*

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[Click the image above to watch a video of Alex's visit]

### **ALEX VISITS NEW RESETTLEMENT HUB AT HMP BERWYN**

Alex visited HMP Berwyn in North Wales to inspect its new resettlement hub.

The resettlement hub is a state-of-the-art facility where prisoners can meet work coaches and get training to prepare for employment on the outside. They can even attend video-link interviews with prospective employers.

Alex said: *"Berwyn is a large modern prison with impressive facilities for learning new trades like joinery and construction. The prisoners I met were really motivated and filled with hope for a better future after their release."*

*"The standout moment was visiting a massive new Resettlement Hub in the heart of the prison - a large, open-plan, space. It felt more like a JobCentre than a prison, and work coaches will be on hand from next month to match up prisoners with jobs on the outside."*



### **ALEX ANNOUNCES PROJECT TO TEACH PRISONERS NEW SKILLS**

HMP Garth prisoners have become the first to build eco-friendly lights in-house, cutting prisons' energy use and learning new skills in the process.

Offenders are assembling LED lights which use 62% less electricity and are expected to save around £2.5m a year once rolled-out across the prison estate.

Around 50,000 old fluorescent lights in prisoners' cells are to be replaced, with 13,000 changed to the energy efficient alternative and already saving £645,000 per year.

Alex said: *"This is the latest example of prisons doing their bit to build back greener as we move towards a net-zero future."*

*"We know teaching prisoners new skills reduces reoffending, and this is an opportunity to combine learning with tackling climate change."*

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**CHELTENHAM UPDATES:**



### **ALEX VISITS CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER GYMNASTICS CLUB**

Alex recently visited the new Cheltenham and Gloucester Gymnastics Club. C&G Gymnastics run recreational classes for children aged 3-18 with classes designed to introduce members to the fundamental elements of gymnastics before working towards more difficult skills.

The club have invested in state-of-the-art, Olympic standard equipment including:

- Full-size Competition Floor



- Competition Beam
- Competition Vault
- Competition Asymmetric Bars
- 'Skakun' Tumbling Track

For more information including class timetables, please click [HERE](#).



[Alex welcoming the resurfacing of Montpellier roundabout]



[Alex meeting Cllr Vernon Smith, GCC Cabinet Member for Highways, in The Reddings to make the case for more resurfacing work in Cheltenham]

### **ALEX RENEWS CALL FOR FURTHER INVESTMENT IN CHELTENHAM'S ROADS**

Alex is redoubling his efforts to secure more investment in Cheltenham's roads. After significant progress from GCC in the last 1-2 years (the Prom, Montpellier Spa Rd, St James' Square, Tewkesbury Road (part) and other areas have been resurfaced) Alex is insisting there should be no let-up in momentum.

He recently visited Reddings Road for a maintenance update from Cllr Vernon Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways. Based on conversations with constituents, Alex has collated a list of roads that need resurfacing and has recently reported the following roads:

- Robert Burns Avenue
- Lipson Road
- Leckhampton Hill - Air Balloon
- Merestones Road
- Noverton Lane
- Brymore Avenue
- Finchcroft Lane
- Keynsham Road

- Bayshill Road
- Crickley Hill - Suzuki Garage
- Swindon Road
- St Paul's Road
- Clarence Road
- Roberts Road
- Hayden Lane
- Gloucester Road
- Malvern Road

Please email Alex on [alex.chalk.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alex.chalk.mp@parliament.uk) so that he can raise any roads that require attention with the Highways Department.

# TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE AWARDED AN ADDITIONAL £148,800 FOR TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Following a joint letter of support from Gloucestershire's MPs, Gloucestershire Police and the Hollie Gazzard Trust have been awarded £148,800 from the Government's £24m Science, Technology and Research fund.

Gloucestershire Police and the Hollie Gazzard Trust will use this funding to develop an anonymous reporting app to support women and girls from violence, abuse and intimidation across the County.

The app will generate a report including non-specific location data, allowing for place based trends to be identified and allocated to safeguarding partners.

Alex said: *"As the Minister responsible for leading the Domestic Abuse Bill through the House of Commons, I was pleased to support Gloucestershire Police and the Hollie Gazzard Trust's application to the VAWG Transformation Fund.*

*"This funding will enable them to develop an app that will act as a catalyst for sustainable change in values, attitudes and behaviours to drive down violence against women and girls."*



[Alex with members of the cast]

### **ALEX ATTENDS THE OPENING NIGHT OF 'PRISCILLA' AT THE EVERYMAN**

Alex was delighted to attend the opening night of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert as the Everyman Theatre reopened to a full house.

Based on the Oscar-winning film, Priscilla is the story of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus bound for the Outback to put on the show of a lifetime.

The Everyman received £832,000 from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund to support it during the pandemic (as part of an overall package for Cheltenham totalling over £350m).

Alex tweeted afterwards: *"So amazing to be back at the theatre! Brilliant performance of Priscilla Queen of the Desert this evening at the Cheltenham Everyman. The audience loved it!"*

*"It's really fantastic to see this precious cultural venue back up and running. A true Cheltenham gem."*



## Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

### **ALEX RAISES CONCERNS WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS TEAM**

Alex is working with the other Gloucestershire MPs and the Gloucestershire Mental Health crisis team to strengthen further mental health care in Gloucestershire.

Despite record investment in mental health, demand continues to surge in the county. Gloucestershire Mental Health's crisis team have committed to writing to Gloucestershire's MPs to update them on its development plan to deal with the 50% increase in referrals to the crisis team during the pandemic.

Alex will continue to push for progress and will provide an update in due course.



### **ALEX WELCOMES PCC'S PLEDGE FOR 300 NEW OFFICERS**

Alex has welcomed the announcement from new Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire (Chris Nelson) that he will provide Gloucestershire Constabulary with another 300 officers.

Recruitment will include:

- **150 Police officers**
- **50 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)**
- **103 Police staff (to include call handlers and investigators)**
- **150 Special Constables/volunteer PCSOs**

This comes on top of the **5.6%** boost in police numbers in 20/21 as part of the first tranche of extra officers promised by the government. The total number of police officers for the county stands at **1,231, up by 70 this year.**

Alex said: *"I welcome the PCC's commitment to put more officers back on our streets to keep the people of Gloucestershire safe.*

*"This builds on the Government's pledge for 20,000 new officers by March 2023 and I am pleased that nearly 9,000 additional police officers have already been recruited nationally."*

*"As always, our thanks goes to the brave men and women of Gloucestershire Police for all that they do to keep us safe."*



### **ALEX BACKS GCC'S ACTIVE TRAVEL CAPITAL FUND BID**

Alex has written to the Secretary of State for Transport to support GCC's bid to the Active Travel Capital Fund.

As part of this fund, the Government will give councils £175 million to create safe space for cycling and walking, including:

- Low-traffic neighbourhoods where residential side streets are closed to through traffic to stop rat-running
- Segregated cycle lanes
- Pedestrian improvements

In his letter of support, Alex wrote: *"Providing an improved environment for cyclists will encourage additional use, support safe use for all abilities and importantly provide the scope for modal shift."*

*"The significant benefits of this bid will be a felt by all residents and businesses wishing to access Gloucestershire's employment, educational and training opportunities due to the proximity of those facilities to the improvements which are especially important for younger people or those on lower incomes who may not own a car but will now have access opportunities via a range of methods."*



### **ALEX VISITS CHELTENHAM'S RICHMOND VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

Alex was invited to Richmond Village Retirement Community near Manor by the Lake to view the new accommodation.

Opened in February 2020, Richmond Village has independent suites and a nursing home that offers nursing and residential dementia care.

During his visit, Alex met with staff and residents to better understand the challenges that retirement communities and care homes have faced during the pandemic.

He also discussed the role retirement communities may play as part of future social care reform plans.

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**ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

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## **ALSO SINCE THE LAST UPDATE, ALEX HAS:**

### **As Prisons Minister:**

- Met with the **Chief Executive of HM Prison & Probation**
- Met with the **Chair and Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board**
- Met with the **Executive Director Youth Custody Service**
- Visited **HMYOI Cookham Wood and HMP Cardiff.**

### **As Cheltenham's MP:**

- Held a virtual **constituency surgery** with local constituents
- Met with **Superintendent Emma Jones of Gloucestershire Constabulary** for a general update on crime and ASB in Cheltenham
- Submitted a response to the **Boundary Commission** on proposed changes to the Cheltenham constituency - Alex opposes Springbank being transferred to Tewkesbury
- Attended a **prayer service for Afghanistan** at St Gregory's
- Attended **Cheltenham Animal Shelter's** summer party
- Attended **St Vincent's and St George's** garden party
- Met with the Managing Director of **Sustainable Direction** who are working on sustainability and renewable energy projects in Cheltenham
- Met with **GARAS** to discuss the situation in Afghanistan
- Met with **parishioners from St Gregory's to discuss poverty and climate change**
- Attended LINC fundraiser at Cheltenham [Bowls Fest](#) in Suffolk Square

### **Received Briefings from:**

- **NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group** about the vaccine rollout and health in Cheltenham
  - **Vaccines Minister** Nadhim Zahawi
  - Dame Judith Hackitt, **Chair of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety**
  - The **Secretary of State for Education** Gavin Williamson on exam results
  - The **Foreign Secretary**, the **Defence Secretary** and the **Minister for the Armed Forces** on the situation in Afghanistan
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IN THE MEDIA



[Click to watch Alex's interview on Channel Four News]



[Click to listen to Alex's interview on BBC Radio

Gloucestershire]



**PRISON KITCHENS**

Prisons Minister  
Alex Chalk MP

sky news 06:16

News New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern says the country is set to stay in a

[Click to watch Alex's interview on Sky News]

### **SINCE THE LAST UPDATE:**

Alex has:

- (i) been interviewed on **Channel Four** about the Government's Beating Crime Plan
- (ii) been interviewed on BBC Radio Gloucestershire about prisons and Afghanistan
- (iii) written a column for the Sandfield's residents magazine **The Sandfield Sun**
- (iv) written four articles for the **Cheltenham Post**
- (v) written four articles for the **Gloucestershire Echo**, in which he:

1. Announced that offenders released from prison would be guaranteed accommodation for twelve weeks. [READ HERE.](#)
2. Said that there was no time for delay or excuses in response to the IPCC's report on climate change. [READ HERE.](#)
3. Said that we must fulfil our debt of honour and gratitude to Afghan interpreters, cultural advisers, embassy staff and others. [READ HERE.](#)
4. Provided an update on Government support for the people of Afghanistan. [READ HERE.](#)

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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**



### **FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS AVAILABLE**

As part of the Government's Towns Fund, GCC has launched a Build Back Better Market Towns fund to help areas put on community events as part of their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding worth £500,000 is available to market towns for events such as Christmas fairs, spring shows, summer fetes, vintage car shows, music festivals or farmers' markets.

Applications can be made by parish and town councils, as well as voluntary and community organisations, for bids ranging from £1,000 to £25,000.

Completed applications must be received by midnight on 26 September 2021 and applicants will be informed of the outcome on 4 October.

For more information, please click [HERE](#).



### **TEAM GUIDE DOGS 2021 CHALLENGE**

Cheltenham residents David Fahey and Ruth Carr are running the Cheltenham Half and the London Marathon in support of Guide Dogs.

The runs are part of a wider fundraising campaign organised by the Twin Arrows golf society, Pat and Drena Cox and David Fahey. The group have raised £75,000 over the past nine years for charities including the British Heart Foundation, Sue Ryder and the MND Association.

This year, they are raising money for Guide Dogs. This is a charity close to Ruth's hearts as she lost her sight in her thirties. David will act as Ruth's guide runner.

They have already raised a staggering £14,000 towards their target of £25,000. To find out more about the challenge or to donate please click [HERE](#).

# PEDAL FOR MAGGIE'S

Sunday 12th September 2021



Get pedalling and help Maggie's support thousands of people living with cancer.

40 OR 60 MILE ROUTES

Take part individually or as part of a team!

Registration: £20 or £100 for a team of 6

Find out more and register:  
[maggies.org/pedalformaggies](https://maggies.org/pedalformaggies)

Contact us on 01242 896400 or email [CheltenhamFundraising@maggies.org](mailto:CheltenhamFundraising@maggies.org)

Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's) is a registered charity, No. SC024414

FREE MAGGIE'S  
CYCLING JERSEY\*



\*If you raise a minimum of  
£150 in sponsorship

## PEDAL FOR MAGGIE'S

Pedal for Maggie's is back! The 40 or 60 mile cycle ride through the Cotswolds, will take place on Sunday the 12th September.

Registration is £20 (or £100 for a team of six) and fundraising is optional. However, if you raise more than £150, you get a free Maggie's cycling jersey and everyone will get a medal!

For more information, click [HERE](#).



### **FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MORE PROPERTIES IN CHELTENHAM**

The Environment Agency has announced that new flood warning areas have been created for the 'Hatherley Brook from Leckhampton to Down Hatherley' and 'Wymans Brook from Wymans to Pittville'.

The Environment Agency are contacting residents in the new areas to provide an update on the new flood warning service.

There has been no increase in the risk of flooding to these properties and this new flood warning will not affect people's insurance premium.

For more information please click [HERE](#).



### **LILLIAN FAITHFUL NEW BUTTERFLY WING OPENS**

Lillian Faithful have opened a new wing at its Royal Court care home in Cheltenham.

This wing offers dementia and extra care to those residents with a higher level of needs; it helps bridge the gap between residential and nursing care.

The Butterfly Wing consists of six apartments as well as a communal lounge, dining room and easily accessible enclosed gardens. It has its own dedicated staff team, with higher than usual staffing levels, to enable plenty of one to one support.

Activities will be offered on a one to one basis but there is still the opportunity to join in with lively events and activities in the main home at Royal Court.

To find out more please click [HERE](#).



## **USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS**

### **Gloucestershire County Council**

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk)

01452 425000

### **Cheltenham Borough Council**

[www.cheltenham.gov.uk](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk)

01242 262626

### **Age UK Gloucestershire**

[www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire)

01452 422660

### **Gloucestershire Abuse Support**

01452 726570

### **Citizens Advice Gloucestershire**

01452 527202

### **GRASAC (Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre)**

[www.glosrasac.org](http://www.glosrasac.org)

01452 305421



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