

Parents must teach children the difference between right and wrong not leave to police to pick up the pieces, watchdog says

- **Crime is not just police's problem, says chief inspector of constabulary**
- **Doctors, judges, teachers and prison guards all have a role to play**
- **Calls for technology to track criminals to prevent crimes happening**
- **Tom Winsor says strategy would save money and reduce victims**
- **Think tank calls for return to Tardis-style police boxes on Britain's streets**

By James Tozer

Parents must do more to teach their children right from wrong to stop them becoming criminals, the police watchdog said yesterday.

In his first major speech as Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tom Winsor said it was the duty of all parents and families to turn young people into law-abiding citizens.

He also accused mental health services of abdicating their duty to prevent crime, and warned that officers were frustrated with the soft sentences handed out to the criminals they catch.



One the beat: Police watchdog Tom Winsor called for better-targeted patrols to 'disrupt and destroy' opportunities to offend, instead of waiting for crimes to happen

And he urged for persistent and dangerous offenders to be put in prison to prevent them committing further crimes. Speaking at the Royal United Services Institute think-tank in Whitehall, Central London, Mr Winsor said: 'Parents and families as well as schools must instil in children a strong appreciation of right and wrong and the reality and instincts to behave as responsible law abiding citizens.'

Asked about tackling persistent criminals, he said that officers must 'make it as hard as possible to commit the crime in the first place'.

He added: 'Many many police officers are extremely frustrated at the sentences that are sometimes handed out by the courts.'

He said officers must find 'persistent prolific and dangerous offenders and take them off the streets'.



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Mr Winsor argues that money can be saved if crimes can be prevented, eradicating the cost of dealing with offenders in the criminal justice system

'If you have them locked up that's a pretty good way of preventing crime,' he added. Mr Winsor warned that officers were often left to deal with criminals with mental health problems because the police were regarded as the public service that would 'never say no'.

As a result, officers' time was wasted looking after people who should be in the hands of mental health professionals. Mr Winsor, the former rail regulator, also complained that police were working with primitive equipment that was 'next to useless'.



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A modern version of the Tardis police box, made famous by Doctor Who, could be used as a base for patrolling officers, the Policy Exchange think tank said

On a visit to meet officers on the front line, he found one using a personal electronic organiser that was a decade out of date.

He said officers were often putting technology such as iPhones in their lockers at the start of their shifts and taking out far inferior equipment to use on the job.

Beat officers should have access to intelligence and other databases while on the beat so they know the background of the addresses and streets they patrol.

He added: 'In too many respects, the technology which officers have to work with is quite far behind where it could be.

'It is remarkable that the technology available to the police, particularly in their interaction with other parts of the criminal justice system, is as rudimentary and as primitive as it is. It haemorrhages efficiency.' Mr Winsor was the first non-police officer appointed Chief Inspector of Constabulary. He was selected seven months ago after writing two controversial reports for the Home Office into the pay, conditions and structure of policing.