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## **PATRICK MERCER MP SETS ASIDE WESTMINSTER TO WORK WITH HOMELESS FAMILIES**

**Former military man and journalist, the Conservative Member for Newark will spend three days volunteering with charity Save the Family.**

Patrick Mercer MP will take up the Inner City Challenge next week, immersing himself in a charity working with some of Britain's most damaged families.

From Tuesday 17 - Thursday 19 March, Patrick Mercer will be on a placement programme devised by former Conservative Party Leader Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP.

"The programme puts MPs into small poverty fighting projects so that they can see up close the reality of Britain's broken society and the incredible work of voluntary groups fixing it," says Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, Chairman of the Centre for Social Justice.

Patrick Mercer MP's placement is at Save the Family a charity that has worked with tens of thousands of homeless families. The charity runs a small village of quality housing where it provides accommodation for women who have been living in sheds, skips, cars and bed and breakfast accommodation. They help women with cooking, literacy, anger management and parenting skills; restore children to their mothers from care and sometimes absent fathers. The rebuilt family are stabilised then moved to housing in the community.

Patrick Mercer MP, who was educated at Oxford University and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and worked for BBC Radio 4, will help in the 'cooking on a budget' class, house work and school run routines, and basic life skills course as he spends three days with families and the charity staff.

Patrick Mercer said, "I am looking forward a great deal to visiting Save the Family and seeing the excellent work that they are doing."

Press inquiries for the Centre for Social Justice can be directed to Nick Wood or Media Intelligence Partners on 07889 617003 or 020 3008 8146 or Alistair Thompson on 07970 162 225.

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## NOTES

1. Patrick Mercer is the MP for Newark. He was first elected in 2001. His biography is available at:  
[http://www.conservatives.com/People/Members\\_of\\_Parliament/Mercer\\_Patrick.aspx](http://www.conservatives.com/People/Members_of_Parliament/Mercer_Patrick.aspx)  
  
[www.patrickmercer.org.uk](http://www.patrickmercer.org.uk)
2. The Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank putting social justice at the heart of British Politics. Established by Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP in 2004.  
[www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)
3. The placement is from 9am Tuesday 17 – 5pm Thursday 19 March 2009 at Save the Family, Plas Bellin, Oakenholt Lane, Northop Hall, Flintshire , CH7 6DF.
4. Save the Family is a registered charity No 516484, established 30 years ago by Edna Speed MBE. It serves homeless families in NW England and Wales with over 400 referrals each year. Details on [www.savethefamily.uk.com](http://www.savethefamily.uk.com)