BY ANDREW GREGORY THOUSANDS of children aged 10 and under are being treated for depression, stress and anxiety. Bullying, fear of failure and cuts to mental health support groups are said to be among the causes for a rise in the number of youngsters suffering. Expert Lucie Russell said: "It's a sad indictment of the society we live in. FULL STORY: PAGES 4&5

Thousands treated for stress >>> Bullying & fear of failure among causes

46% fret over getting a job

In total, 83% have

15-year-olds have suffered stress, a survey

out today said. The study of 1,500 youngsters revealed 46% worry about earning

money when they grow up. Bullying remains a major problem but it has moved from the playground to social media sites to become a 24/7 problem, the research by the National Children's Bureau said. A quarter in the age group have

experienced stress at times, 11% every day. The survey Channel 5 news almost two

thirds feel they are judged on looks rather than ability. And almost half have considered dieting.

os said: "This should certainly serve as a wake-up call. Children are under more pressure than ever. They're exposed to more

magery than at any other time." The study found that 66% of kids aged between 11 and 15 spend over three hours in front of a TV or computer screen every day.

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MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FOR KIDS

TORMENTED by bullies, under pressure to fit in and bombarded with school assessments, many youngsters today

EXCLUSIVE BY ANDREW GREGORY

find themselves struggling to cope. And thousands of children aged 10 and under are being treated for anxiety, stress and even depression as a result, an investigation by the Daily Mirror has revealed.

But sayage Coalition cuts to the network of support for affected youngsters means many end up needing hospital treatment because their psychological problems have spiralled out of control - piling more pressure on NHS budgets.

A worrying 4,391 children aged 10 or under have received treatment for stress, anxiety or depression in the last five years, according to figures from two of Britain's biggest NHS mental health trusts. But the total number of primary school pupils affected is likely to be far higher.

Yet two-thirds of local authorities have had to slash their budgets for early intervention schemes such as educationa psychologists, social workers and parenting, programmes services, since the Tory-led Coalition came to power in 2010.

The Young Minds mental health charity urged the Government to stop cutting vital funding to support networks in a bid to prevent a child psychology crisis.

Campaigns chief Lucie Russell said: "An increase in under-11s needing mental health services is a sad and very worrying indictment of the society we live in and the pressures children face.

"Every day we hear about the inprecedented toxic climate young people face in a 24/7 online culture where they can never switch off, where they experience constant assessments at school, bullying, sexualisation, consumerism and pressure to have the perfect body at a young age.

"This leads to thousands of young people including children suffering a range of mental health problems such as anxiety, extreme stress and depression as these statistics show. The World Health Organisation estimate that by 2030 depression is going to be the biggest health problem in the Western world and so we are sitting on a ticking timebomb.

"That's why it is vital we take responsibility for the stress we are loading on to children and act now to provide support for them when they need it.

"This means stopping yet more cuts to early intervention support services, ensuring there is more support for young people in schools who are struggling, making resilience-building a key part of the curriculum and increasing the budget for children and young people's mental health services, which is currently only a measly 0.7% of the overall

NHS budget." South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, one of the biggest mental health trusts in the UK which admits children from across the country, treated 814 and under treated for children 10 and under last year. And South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust looked after 102 youngsters in that health budgets."

age group over the same period. This is more than double the figure from 2008. health trusts for figures but they did not result, one young girl suffering stress had have the data available specifically relating

to stress, anxiety and depression. Former Health Secretary Alan Johnson, who has called for a Health Select Committee investigation into our findings, said: "What you have uncovered is shocking, their community, which only stores up

BY PROF DAME SUE BAILEY. esident, Royal College of chiatrists and a consultant hild and adolescent forensic

CHILDREN under the age of 11 are increasingly developing symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression.

It is positive that they are getting professional help and treatment, but it would be better if they had never reached that point

Some need counselling or cognitive behaviour therapy. Others have play or art therapy, where they will be encouraged to play and draw to identify what is causing their anxiety or stress.

If there was better prevention earlier - both at home and primary school - we would see fewer

children needing NHS care. We are so concerned about this that we are launching a study to ook at rates of mental disorders in

rimary schools. The stresses children face are different today. People talk about young people being depressed, but I would like to highlight a concern about anxiety.

We urgently need to look at what we can do to prevent a generation suffering with anxiety, by working with families and schools or helping hildren respect each

FEARS other. We need to help children become more their lives. It's about

Children aged nine, 10 and 11 tend to look up to older teenagers or young pop stars and, if they feel they do not have the same image, that can cause problems. Bullying is also still a significant problem. It's considered dangerous to be lifferent, but we are all different.

Some children fear exams and being tested. Some feel they are always being looked at.
It is also really important to let children be children. They need to

play and socialise with other young children as well as starting to learn. There has to be a balance. We need to give teachers support at spotting children who

are feeling lost or withdrawn, so we can step in as early as possible. Half of all mental disorders start before the age of 14. This is why it is important for the Government to oush more money and resources

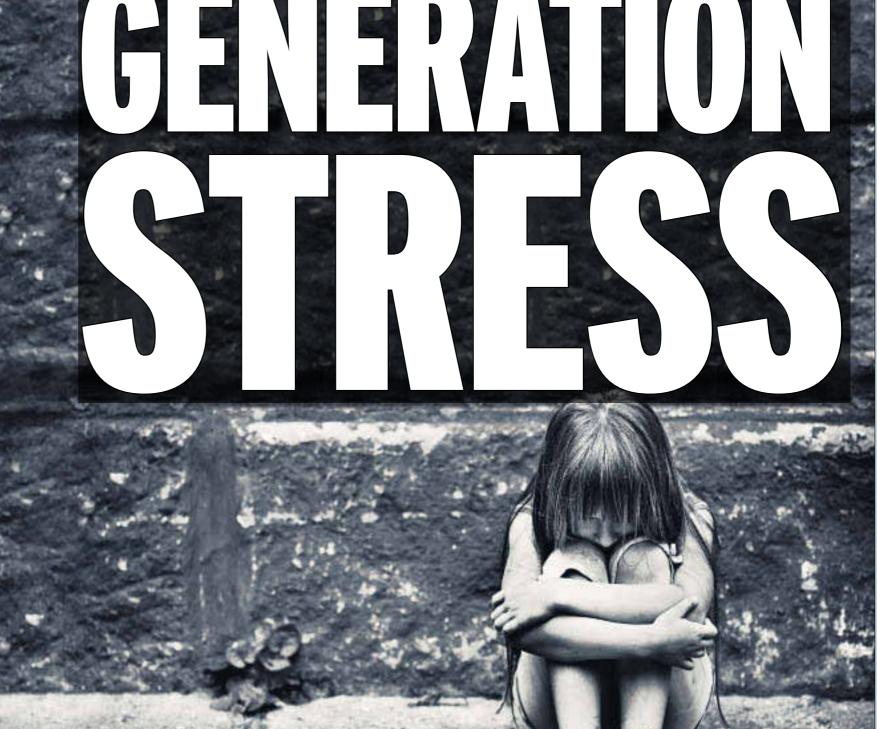
into early prevention.

As a country, we put a woeful amount of money into mental health prevention. Why we aren't putting as much into ental health as physical health remains a mystery.

It is clear children are increasingly having to receive NHS care because of cuts to child and adolescent mental

In his Hull constituency, the only overnight mental health unit for children and We asked eight other major NHS mental adolescents has recently been shut. As a to be sent to a unit in Cheshire - more than 100 miles away from her family. Another local girl had to be treated in Newcastle

Mr Johnson added: "Children are failing to get the support they need early on in



problems for the future. And then when symptoms are not acted upon quickly are rare. However, they are they need NHS care, many are having to enough, through support programmes, both important to recognise travel hours away to get help.

This is a

worrying

society we

LUCIE RUSSELL FROM

that child's mental health. Mental health serious mental health problems for the impairment in school work,

is the poor relation of the NHS. Inpatient facilities need to be reopened so children can get help close to home, and councils need to provide services to help prevent so many needing care in the first place. We should not be in position where thousands of under-11s need NHS treatment."

Labour MP Diana Johnson said: "Early intervention is the key. İ

children can grow up anxious and and treat as they can cause "It is going to be to the detriment of stressed, which can lead to them suffering significant functional

children in our society. It is m a future free of mental ealth problems."

cademic director for child alth services at South keeps youngsters out of hospital. ondon and Maudsley,

est of their life. These are social relationships and aside for children's often the most vulnerable—enjoyment of leisure. Social workers, educationa

ssential we act to give psychologists and parentir Emily Simonoff, problems. They can identify early warning and adolescent mental motion therapy and counselling that

aid: "Depression and a freedom of information request by mental health must be treated with equal nxiety are common. Many YoungMinds, 34 said they had slashed experience the milder spending on children and adolescent ms and the more severe mental health services since 2010. Derby

41%, Norfolk by 35% and Redcar and Cleveland by 27%. In London, Ealing, Westminster councils have reduced their youth mental health budgets by 10%.

But Care Minister Norman Lamb programmes provide a vital safety net insisted the Government is spending on for children at risk of developing mental health and admitted it was "totally unacceptable to disadvantage signs of mental health risks and set into mental health when allocating funds"

He added: "We are investing £54million in improving access to therapy treatments But of 51 councils that responded to for children. I have always been clear importance as physical health."

VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE 8

Ben, 7, anxious and quiet after parents split up

CASE STUDY 1

BEN suffers from anxiety which has developed in the year since

his parents separated.

The seven-year-old is losing interest at school and finds it hard to concentrate. Teachers have noticed he can be withdrawn and tends to sit on his own.

He finds it difficult to communicate with his friends and sometimes they fall out.
At home, Ben's family have

noticed he has become quiet and emotional. He can be clingy and cries for the slightest thing.

He has complained he thinks

he is "stupid" and "ugly". Ben has become reluctant to visit his dad's new home. His mum often has to put him in the car screaming and crying. At his dad's, he refuses to

speak or participate and says he dislikes the four-year-old daughter of his dad's new partner

He is often rude to his grandparents when they pick him up from school. And they are no onger able to motivate him to do things he used to enjoy - like walking the dog. Sometimes he lashes out at them.

Ben has now been seeing a child psychotherapist for two months but refuses to speak or engage in sessions. He just sits

Laura, 10, lives in fear of move to new school

CASE STUDY 2

LAURA is 10 and extremely bright but she finds going to primary school tough.

She is starting secondary school next year but is suffering from anxiety and stress because

of the looming change. Laura has friends at primary school but can struggle to fit in

socially, especially at playtime. She was bullied, called names and pushed around, causing her to stay away from school and niss nearly two terms. She ther developed symptoms of obsessive compulsive disorder.

council has cut its budget Laura became upset if certain things were out of place and was le to touch door handles she felt others had touched.

Her primary school was unable to cope and referred her to a psychologist. She began to improve but then became increasingly worked up about going to secondary school.

She refuses to discuss the schools on offer with her parents. Laura has become defiant at home and school and can be verbally abusive and physically aggressive at home, which is

totally out of character. She savs sometimes she thinks life is not worth living.

andrew.gregory@mirror.co.uk The names of both children and ome details have been changed.

Nazi victims' musical echo

VISITORS to Berlin's Holocaust Memorial can now experience a concert that was played there in 2008.

By downloading an app to a smartphone they can wander around the stone blocks and hear the exact sounds they would have heard from any spot.

Before The Silencing, by German composer Harald Weiss, was written in honour of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis.

App creator Daniel-Jan Girl said: "With music we've tried to find a universal approach to the subject."

Children being left on adult psychiatric wards Shame of Coalition cuts

betraying vulnerable kids













It's unacceptable. **EXCLUSIVE** BY ANDREW GREGORY These youngsters seem to be seen BRITAIN'S top psychiatrist has as a lesser form accused the Government of failing of human being

mentally unwell children by forcing them to be treated on adult wards. Official NHS rules say kids with mental

disorders should never be admitted to adult wards. The Department of Health had promised this would stop by 2010. Yet alarming new figures show hundreds of under-18s – some as young as 12 – with

mental health problems are being treated on adult psychiatric wards.

Dame Professor Sue Bailey, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said: "We

are at a tipping-point in mental health.

"It is completely unacceptable that children are having to be treated on adult psychiatric wards.

CRISIS

"One in 10 children has a mental disorder yet they seem to be seen as a lesser form of human being. We have got it now in legislation. The words are there but the deeds do not follow."

Health watchdog the Care Quality Commission has been alerted to the crisis triggered by cuts to services and a shortage of specialist children's beds.

It means vulnerable youngsters are treated alongside adults, denying them access to specialist paediatric nurses and education services. And they face a greater risk of physical and sexual abuse.

A Daily Mirror inquiry this month showed thousands of children aged 10 and under are being treated for depression, stress and anxiety.

We also told how two-thirds of local authorities have had to cut budgets for early intervention schemes due to the Coalition's policies since 2010.

DAME PROF SUE BAILEY
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

Data from 51 of the 58 NHS mental health trusts in England showed that 350 under-18s have been admitted so far to adult mental health wards in 2013/2014 compared with 242 two years earlier.

Incredibly, 10 NHS trusts revealed they had been forced to send children more than 150 miles away for care.

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust said it had to transfer one child 275 miles to Bury, Greater Manchester, because there was no bed available nearer home.

Dr Michael McClure, from the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Sometimes we have to make 50 to 100 phone calls looking for a bed." Dr Jacqueline Cornish, NHS England's

national clinical director for children, said the body is conducting a three-month 'rapid review" into the scandal.

Sarah Brennan, of child mental health charity YoungMinds, said: "The terrible increase we are seeing in children on adult

wards was predictable as soon as early intervention services were cut."

The Department of Health insisted that children and young people's mental health is a priority.

andrew.gregory@mirror.co.uk **SPEAKING OUT** Dame Prof Sue Bailey

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BY ANDREW GREGORY

THE scandal of thousands of children under 10 needing psychiatric help is being probed by MPs - after the Daily Mirror exposed the scale of the issue.

Parliament's Health Select Committee launched an official inquiry into the "stress generation" of kids' who suffer anxiety and depression and struggle to get help.

The committee's Grahame Morris said: "The Daily Mirror's investigation and findings have been influential, and played a key part in triggering the formal inquiry.

Our report on February 10 also highlighted how more youngsters are needing NHS treatment because two thirds of councils have been forced to slash budgets for

MPs praise our shocking story

early intervention schemes.

aged 10 or under have received treatment for stress, anxiety or depression since 2009, according to two of the biggest NHS mental health trusts.

health issues as they face growing

ments, and bullying in the playgroundand via Facebook and Twitter.

The MPs' inquiry will look at these concerns, as well as probing the funding, the commissioning and the lack of access to treatment.

Diamond rap aide cleared

A BODYGUARD was vesterday cleared of stealing £12million in diamonds from the Sultan of Brunei's former wife and replacing them with fakes.

Fatimah Lim, 35, had claimed her boss Mariam Aziz, 59, had told her to secretly sell the gems in Geneva to pay off her

£5million gambling debts. Lim told Isleworth crown court she had been forced into a false confession in Brunei by corrupt police.

After 15 hours, the jury found Lim not guilty of three counts of theft.

Terror grass joins 9/11 trial

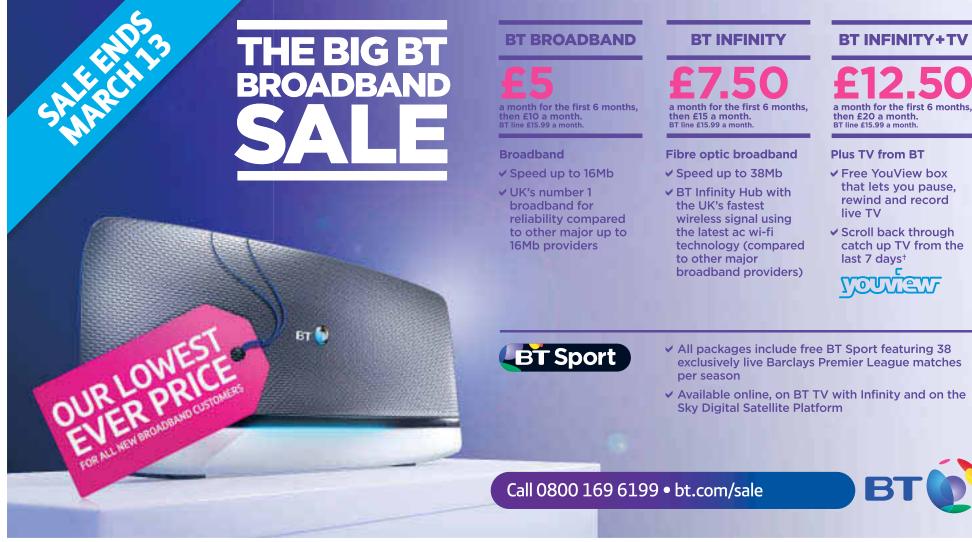
A SHOE bomb terrorist is to testify against Osama bin Laden's son-in-law at a trial over the 9/11 attacks.

Saajid Badat, 33, jailed for plotting to blow up a US jet but released after becoming a supergrass, will appear by video at the New York trial.

Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, 48, the top al-Qaeda official tried for the 2001 attacks, denies conspiring to kill.

He listened yesterday to a list of witnesses, including Badat, of Gloucester. Badat says he was briefed by bin Laden on 9/11 but backed out at the last minute.





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Voice 'wants Kylie return'

KYLIE Minogue could return to The Voice after her European tour, says the show's executive producer.

The star announced last month she was quitting after one series to concentrate on her music career.

She said: "I'm sad to say that, due to the timing of my tour, I won't be back for season four."

But The Voice chief Moira Ross has told TV Times: "Hopefully we'll have her back for series five. So it's a little hiatus."

Kylie, 45, was credited with saving the BBC talent show – boosting its audience by two million on her debut.

Baldwin held on cycle rap

ALEC Baldwin was arrested yesterday for cycling up a one-way street and acting "in a violent, threatening manner", according to police officers.

The Emmy-award winning actor was spotted riding his bike against traffic in Manhattan and stopped.

Baldwin, 56, who starred in TV comedy 30 Rock, was taken to a police station and issued with a summons for riding a bike the wrong way and for disorderly conduct.

Baldwin later tweeted: "Officer Moreno arrested me and handcuffed me for going the wrong way on Fifth Ave. New York City is a mismanaged carnival of stupidity."



BY **ANDREW GREGORY**Health Correspondent

SCHOOLS are risking the physical and mental health of children by piling pressure on them to pass exams, experts warn today.

The Tory-led Government's obsession with tests and league tables means the wellbeing of pupils is being ignored, according to the Institute of Education.

And subjects such as personal, social, and health education have been ditched because they don't count towards league tables positions.

tables positions.

But the IoE's Professor Chris
Bonell claimed youngsters
would get better exam results if
they were "happy and healthy".

The academic highlighted research which suggests "teaching to the test" can harm students' mental health.

PHYSICAL

He said: "Schools need to teach not only academic knowledge and cognitive skills, but also the knowledge and skills pupils will need to promote their own mental and physical health, and successfully navigate the world of work."

Countries such as Finland, Sweden, Australia and Singapore place a greater emphasis on the development and wellbeing of kids – and achieve better academic results than the UK.

Under new Coalition reforms, pupils will be assessed from four in a bid to achieve higher exam results later – putting them under pressure even sooner.

■A BÂN on primary pupils using calculators in Sats tests is a backward step as they help pupils understand maths better, according to academics.

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Breezy and wet in the north. Showers in the south

Scotland, Northern Ireland and parts of northern **England** will be cool and breezy with showers or spells of rain, these heavy at times. Variable cloud for Wales and the rest of England with a few showers, mainly in the west.

Saturday and Sunday will have sunny spells and scattered showers, the showers will be most frequent across northern and eastern parts of the UK. Remaining cool for the time of year.

ABROAD

		C F			C F
Amsterdam	S	14 57	Las Palmas	S	26 79
Athens	S	30 86	Madrid	S	29 84
Barcelona	S	25 77	Malaga	S	34 93
Benidorm	F	31 88	Malta	С	29 84
Biarritz	S	20 68	Miami	С	32 90
Costa Brava	С	26 79	Nice	S	25 77
Crete	S	28 82	Paris	S	18 64
Ibiza	F	27 81	Sydney	F	14 57
Larnaca	S	31 88	Tenerife	S	27 81

S Sun, C Cloud, F Fair, SH Shower, R Rain, DR Drizzle, FG Fog, SN Snow, TH Thunder

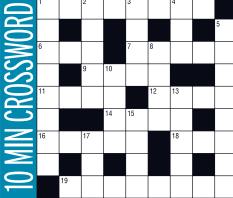
LOTTO: 6, 12, 15, 24, 35, 47. Bonus: 22 No winner of £5.49m jackpot.

THUNDERBALL: 17, 19, 20, 24, 32 **Thunderball:** 12. No £500k winner.

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TUESDAY'S EUROMILLIONS: 4,7,11,34,47 Lucky Stars: 7 & 8. No UK jackpot winner.

HEALTH LOTTERY: 17,19,28,30,40. Bonus: 32



ACROSS DOWN

1 Classic French game (8) 1 Column support (8)
6 Karate grade (3) 2 Taut, on edge (5)
7 Moan complain (5) 3 Imminent (4)

Moan, complain (5) Area of London (4)

Ranked player (4) Elaborate song (4) Comic, – 0 Briain (4) Jean –, ex-17 driver (5)

Young child (3) Interfering person (8)

1 Column suppor 2 Taut, on edge (3 Imminent (4) 4 Alien craft (1,1,1 5 Foot soldiers (8 8 Sound of a lion 10 Chances (4) 13 Proportion (5) Alien craft (1,1,1) Foot soldiers (8) Sound of a lion (4)

15 Well ventilated (4) 17 Rod Hull's bird (3)

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS ACROSS: 2 Lethal, 5 Tile, Azalea, 7 Alas, 8 HGV, 11 Acre, 13 Bureau, 14 Last, 15 Extort. DOWN: 1 Jill, 2 Leash, 3 Holy, 4 Loathe, 7 Arable, 9 Vault, **10** Fret, **12** Risk.



CARE MINISTER NORMAN LAMB IN FEBRUARY:

ORMAN LAMB YESTERDAY:

BY ANDREW GREGORY

A MINISTER has finally launched a task force to improve children's mental health services, SIX MONTHS after saying it was already a priority.

Care Minister Norman Lamb yesterday at last conceded services for

Mr Lamb

has been

responsible

for mental

health for

two years

LUCIANA BERGER ON MINISTER'S FAILURE TO

mentally-ill children needed a massive overhaul.

A Daily Mirror investigation in February revealed the NHS could not cope with children's mental health problems.

At the time, Lib Dem Mr Lamb defended the Tory-led Coalition, insisting: "Children's mental health is a priority for this Government."

But yesterday he admitted: "I don't think that children's mental health services, the way they're organised, the way they're commissioned, are fit for purpose.

"In many respects, the way services are organised is stuck in the dark ages and it needs to be brought into the modern age."

Mr Lamb said the task force would be made up of children's mental health experts and former

TASK FORCE Norman Lamb

patients and would make recommendations for a massive shake-up of services

Our investigation revealed how thousands of youngsters - some aged under 10 - are seeking psychiatric help on the NHS as part of "generation stress".

And we highlighted how hundreds of children were being treated on adult wards against NHS rules.

It means they are denied access to specialist paediatric nurses and education services, and face a greater risk of physical and sexual abuse.

Šome NHS trusts are even sending children more than 150 miles for care because of a lack of staff. And cuts mean two thirds of councils have slashed budgets.

This is the latest Lib Dem move to distance themselves from the Tories. But Shadow public health minister Luciana Berger said: "Norman Lamb is

not a commentator. "He has been the minister responsible for mental health for the past two years. On his watch child and adolescent mental health services are in crisis."

andrew.gregory@mirror.co.uk **VOICE OF MIRROR: PAGE 8**





SHOCKING Mirror exposes

Lib Dems on peer's return A LIBERAL Democrat Party

'Victim' raps

member who claims she was sexually harassed by Lord Rennard has hit out at the decision to reinstate him.

Activist Susan Gaszczak said the party has "no moral compass" and lacks "backbone". She fumed: "They don't see the impact this has on women voters."

The peer was suspended when a number of women claimed he had harassed them. He said he may have "inadvertently" encroached on their "personal space".

Lord Rennard's spokesman said yesterday the party has "dealt with the allegations and the matter is closed".

1 in 5 of Swiss clinic deaths are from UK

ONE in five people who go to Switzerland to end their lives are from Britain.

Of 611 euthanasia cases in the last five years, 126 came from the UK, second highest to Germany's 268.

All but four of the assisted suicides took place at Dignitas in Zurich, with 59% involving women.

Neurological diseases such as Parkinson's and dementia accounted for 47% of cases and cancer, 37%.

The average age of those seeking suicide was 69.

The study by the University of Zurich found that Dignitas charged £6,000 to £7,000 for assisted suicides.

40 lots of rail works to hit **Bank Holiday**

RAIL travellers are facing bank holiday hold-ups as work is carried out at 40 sites over the weekend.

Chiefs say people should avoid the London to Glasgow line unless it's "essential" and the capital to Cardiff line will have 45-minute delays. Network Rail, carrying out

work costing £35million that involves 6,000 engineers, said: "We apologise for inconvenience caused."

Traffic experts also say 14 million cars will make the weekend one of the busiest, though rain may help deter day trippers.

Airports are expected to handle 2 million passengers.



THE Tories were accused of dirty tricks yesterday after sending a who is leading the summer recruitment drive, said "Rupert" soon researcher called Rupert to spy on Labour's summer campaign.

Posing as a Labour activist he ioined a busload of MPs and students touring seaside towns. But Labour MP Jon Ashworth,

stuck out like a sore thumb.

He claimed to be part of the Oxford Labour Party but could not name a single member. And when asked how people were responding to Labour policies in Lowestoft,

Suffolk, repeated the Tory line. He then became so flustered he forgot his fake name.

Mr Ashworth said: "You can't blame the kid for trying, but he was definitely no James Bond." Conservative party HQ declined

to comment on the mole.

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FOR THE RECORD

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TO CORRECT AN ERROR: Phone 020 7293 3953, fax 020 7293 3975, email ftr@mirror.co.uk or write to Readers' Editor, Daily Mirror, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP. The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) is the independent body which governs the newspaper industry. It has a Code of Practice we adhere to. This, along with details on how to complain, is available from Halton House, 20/23 High Holborn, ECIN 2JD. Website: pcc.org.uk or email complaints@pcc.org.uk Tel: 020 7831 0022 Helpline: 0845 600 2757



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26 DAILY MIRROR TUESDAY 09.09.2014

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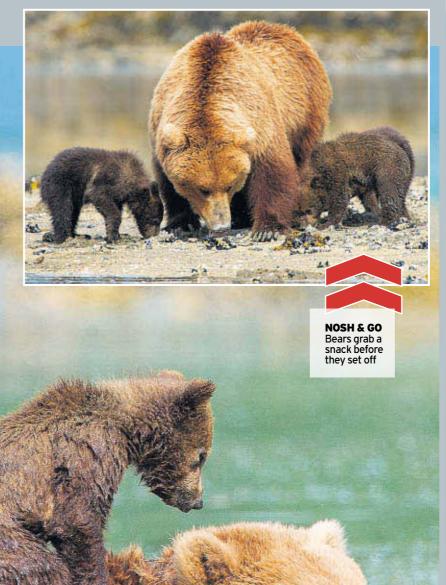


sign of daddy bear, mummy bear has to do it all by herself. So the three little grizzly cubs climb on her back and she ferries them safely

mirror.co.uk

was captured by Norwegian tourist Jon Langeland on a trip to Katmai National Park in southern Alaska. Jon, 60, said: "It's hard to describe the feeling you get from seeing something like that."

TUESDAY 09.09.2014 DAILY MIRROR 27



KIDS SELF

Children as young as 8 end up in A&E

THE number of children admitted to A&E for self-harming has soared by 41% in just five years.

Figures from 33 NHS trusts showed 3,074 under-18s ended up in casualty after deliberately injuring themselves in 2013/14 - up from 2,179 in 2009/10.

Children as young as eight were those treated for cuts, burn

fractures and overdoses. Experts blamed Tory-led cuts, which meant 66% of councils had slashed budgets for mental health services.

Mark Winstanley, of charity Rethink Mental Illness, said: "We're deeply concerned huge numbers of vulnerable young people are missing out on support because of funding cuts."

Lucie Russell, of Youngwere "the tip of the iceberg"

She said: "There are almost certainly thousands more who are committing self-harm and not going to A&E. These

Vulnerable youngsters ANGUISH Kids are in crisis are missing

gures demonstrate yet

gain that our children's ental health is in crisis." She said reasons for selfming included poverty, ullving and family issues. Care Minister Norman amb, who has set up a task

rce to improve care vices, added: "It's crucial young people get the help they need."

support due

to the cuts

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Youngsters need a lot more help near home



AT long last the lid has been lifted on a national shame.

Every day youngsters with mental health problems are being sent the length of the country in search of a bed, often hundreds of miles from home. Worse, others get no support at all and end up in police cells.

The lack of support for

our most vulnerable children is a scandal and today all parties must pledge to end it.

If we carry on as we are thousands of young lives could be damaged.

The cases exposed by the Mirror are far from isolated. These problems affect every part of England.

When it comes to mental health, ministers are all talk and no action.

Ministers must stop paying lip service to mental health and back their words with action.

POOR

The gap between their rhetoric and the reality for vulnerable young people is getting wider.

I congratulate the Mirror for shining a spotlight on this issue.

But we need a plan urgently to improve children's mental health services and provide enough beds.

Mental health remains the poor relation of the NHS and, unforgivably, children's mental health is the poor relation of the poor relation - the easiest target for cuts.

Under David Cameron thousands of beds have been closed, services have got worse and are now at breaking point. Young people who

want counselling are being told they will have to wait months for help. That's simply not good

No young person should have to travel hundreds of miles and be separated from their families to get the care that they need.



ESS BET

>>> Suicidal children turned away

BY **ANDREW GREGORY**

THOUSANDS of mentally unwell children are being failed because of "serious and deeply ingrained problems" in the provision of care, MPs warn today.

In a damning 117-page report, the Health Select Committee lays bare the alarming failings in children's mental health services. The official House of Commons probe was prompted in part by a series of campaigning articles in the Mirror, which submitted evidence to the

committee's inquiry. Its report warns how "in many areas early intervention services are being cut or are suffering from insecure or short

term funding".

This is causing more young people to develop

>> 'Unacceptable' cuts slammed more serious mental health issues and end

up needing specialist NHS care. The influential committee today calls on the Government to "increase spending levels" until services meet "an acceptable standard".

The report highlights how, in some parts of the country, cashstrapped local authorities and NHS groups are tightening their criteria for access to care.

This means some young people

BLAST Dr Peter Carter

who have either self-harmed or expressed interest in committing suicide are being turned away from services.

Earlier this year the Mirror uncovered how 4,391 children aged 10 or under had received treatment for stress, anxiety or depression since 2009 at two of the biggest NHS mental health trusts. But Tory MP Dr Sarah Wollaston said it was a "disgrace" that data had not been collected centrally for over a decade. She highlighted

JNDER 10s

how the cost of a child's in-patient bed in a mental health ward costs £25,000 a month. If that sort of cash had been spent on early schemes such as drop-in services it could have helped avoid the need for dozens of children to be admitted to hospital, she said.

Last night Dr Peter Carter, chief executive of the Royal College of Nursing, blasted: "The pressure on services and lack

of resources is compromising patient safety and it's unacceptable that some children aren't able to receive the care they need."

ITV said the performance was not intended to offend.

Care Minister Norman Lamb "strongly welcomed" the report. He said: "I am determined to make sure young people get the mental health care they need."

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They need help right away. That's why the next Labour Government will give people new rights to get counselling and therapy on the NHS. No young person turning point for our care

THE report into children's mental health

services is a dreadfully depressing read. Services are at breaking point and really struggling to give the support they need, whether it's a child with anorexia needing to see a psychiatrist or someone in danger of ending their life.

Mental health staff desperately want to help but resources are stretched to the limit. Children's services get only 6% of the mental health budget - an incredibly small amount considering more than half of all

BY **SARAH BRENNAN OF YOUNGMINDS**

adults with mental health problems were

diagnosed in childhood.

Young people's mental health problems are escalating rapidly. They are under so much pressure: 24/7 bullying on and offline, stress to achieve academically and, for many, a bleak future in terms of access to

iobs and further education. This report needs to mark a turning point and its recommendations are achievable.

We have to act now and deliver services that provide both effective early intervention and crisis support when necessary in schools, communities and specialist mental health provision.

We sincerely hope the Government takes the report seriously and puts in place a plan of action that delivers real results to the thousands of young people who need it.