



District Chairs

1 Purpose

1.1 The ten District Chairs were invited to attend an Education and Vulnerable Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on either the 23rd March or the 20th April 2016, to discuss how their Community Plans are addressing education and vulnerable children. To assist with this discussion the following main areas are to be explored:

1. Have you got a corporate parent champion and what support/advice is given and what are they doing to fulfil their corporate parenting responsibility; and encourage other members in their District to step up?
2. What is your district doing to fulfil the recommendations within the Birmingham Commission for Children report '*It Takes a City to Raise a Child*'?¹ e.g:
 - Recommendation 1: Embed children and young people's voice into decision-making through the council's 10 district structure;
 - Recommendation 2: Bring people together at a neighbourhood level to improve children's access to, and their perception of safety in, local parks and open spaces;
 - Recommendation 5: Harness community resources to support the community's children and families.
3. What work are you doing in the District regarding education and strengthening links with schools; and how are you working with the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) to do this? For example a recommendation within the Strengthening the Birmingham Family of Schools – The Role of the City Council report recommended that 'Elected Members commit to developing relationships with all schools in their ward and to becoming local champions for education by:
 - i) Affirming their commitment to quality Education for all Birmingham Children at City Council;
 - ii) Affirming to parents and carers in their local area that they will endeavour to represent their interests in working with local "families" of schools;
 - iii) Considering applying to become a governor of at least one school governing body and undertaking governor training as appropriate;

¹ Report:

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/It%20takes%20a%20city%20to%20raise%20a%20child%20-%20Report%20of%20Birmingham%20Commission%20for%20Children.pdf>

Further information and reports: <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-children/childrens-society-west-midlands/birmingham-commission-children>



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- iv) Visiting every school in their ward at least once a year to build relationships and support school activities in their role as councillors;
- v) Inviting Headteachers to present to Ward Committees on school progress in a rolling programme to raise awareness of local school safeguarding, standards and successes and;
- vi) Approaching local businesses to form links with schools for work experience placements and apprenticeships.'

- 4. Your views on addressing the LGA Peer Review's Recommendation 2: Provide training and development for all members involved in scrutinising education with clear line of sight from district level to the Council leadership

1.2 In addition to the substantive issues above there may be time to discuss:

- 5. Any relevant Neighbourhood Challenges that have been carried out.
- 6. Anything the district has done to progress safeguarding issues, or have you any concerns?

2 20th April 2016 Committee Meeting

2.1 At today's committee meeting the following should be in attendance:

- Cllr Josh Jones, Erdington District;
- Cllr Ansar Ali Khan, Hodge Hill District;
- Cllr Peter Griffiths, Northfield District;
- Cllr Karen McCarthy, Cllr Alex Buchanan or Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District;
- Cllr Anne Underwood, Sutton District;
- Cllr Sue Anderson, Yardley District.

3 23rd March 2016 Committee Meeting

3.1 The following attended the previous meeting:

- Cllr John Alden, Edgbaston District;
- Cllr Tony Kennedy, Hall Green District;
- Cllr Ziaul Islam and Lesley Poulton, Ladywood District;
- Cllr Mahmood Hussain and Neil De-Costa, Perry Barr District.

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