



Erdington District Convention Report

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Acknowledgements:

This report has been compiled using detailed notes taken at the Erdington District Convention held on Saturday 28 November 2015. We would like to thank the 40 or so attendees who participated in the workshop sessions for their thoughtful and enthusiastic participation which ensured we have a clear and powerful picture of the type of district that Erdington citizens want to see and work towards.

We would like to thank Jack Dromey, Member of Parliament for Erdington for once again making himself available to support the convention and for delivering his presentation focusing on the rich talent within Erdington District to enable us to face the challenges ahead.

We would like to thank Peter Richmond, Pioneer Group for being the chairman on the day and also Afzal Hussain from Witton Lodge Community Association for handling the feedback from the workshops. In that connection we would like to thank all those who facilitated workshop sessions or who fed back collective views from the workshops to the full meeting.

We also need to make mention of the support of district councillors; Gary Sambrooke, Gareth Moore and Mick Brown who were part of the planning process alongside council staff in Margaret Harris and John Mole who worked behind the scenes in planning, organising and making a success of the convention.

Finally we wish to thank everyone at St Barnabas Church and in particular Paul Hanna for the support we received in organising the convention and we wish him well now he has moved on to his new role.

Councillor Josh Jones
Executive member for Erdington

Mike Davis
Erdington District Head

Introduction:

District Conventions have been held across all ten Birmingham districts over recent years including in Erdington which has held an annual convention since 2012.

Historically we have focused at our conventions on the main themed priorities of the district such as employment, health, housing, community safety and the clean and green agenda. Arising from these discussions a set of partnership working arrangements were put in place to progress these main priorities and partners still come together to discuss and collaborate in five themed groups at regular intervals.

In 2015 the Erdington Convention was held at St Barnabas Church on the morning of Saturday 28 November 2015.

The overall purpose of the convention was to:

- bring residents and partners together to review the progress made within Erdington District
- agree the broad priorities for the district having regard for the financial challenges facing public services at this time
- explore how those priorities identified can best be met and the part that can be played by the council and its partners.
- build on and enhance the well-established partnership network that exists across Erdington.
- contribute toward the development of a broad District Strategic Plan

Content of our 2015 Convention:

Firstly we enjoyed opening remarks from the Erdington District Executive Member and Erdington MP.

Afterwards we commenced a series of workshop exercises taking a people centred '**Cradle to Grave**' approach. To a large extent we all have comparable needs. We all need food and water and a roof over our heads. In terms of satisfying those needs however, our perspective changes at different stages and ages of life. As a child our needs are provided for us, food on the table, a warm bed to sleep in. As we enter adult life we gain independence and provide for ourselves. We need money for food and shelter so we need a job and we look for housing to suit our needs. Then again as we grow older still we may not have the health and the strength to work and put bread on the table and we become again partly or fully reliant on others to meet basic needs. So whilst we do have similar needs those needs are different at different stages and ages of life and some even of the same age will have greater needs than others.

So, in our 3 workshops we utilised our local knowledge and experience to identify the needs of Erdington residents during:

- The early years
- The middle years
- The later years.

For each age and stage of life workshops considered:

- What do people at this stage of life need?
- How well are those needs met?
- What can Erdington people and partners contribute toward meeting those needs?
 - Citizens
 - Businesses
 - The council / public services
 - Community & Voluntary organisations

Supplementary question:

- What can people at this stage of life contribute toward enhancing the quality of life for all in Erdington?

Workshop Findings:

There were 6 tables each with up to 8 participants who discussed the above questions before feeding back thoughts, comments and ideas to the full convention.

Early Years (Children and Young People)

Needs of children:

Love /Security/ Sense of family /Sense of belonging
Morals / boundaries / routines/ stability
Pride / Positive publicity
Parenting skills / quality time
Opportunities for play / nursery school / social interaction / independence
Good education - communication skills/ literacy / numeracy / good attainment level
Careers advice / opportunities / experience / vocation / aspirations
Mentors/ Investment from a range of adults to equip them for life
Good environment
Decent health input / Mental health wellbeing
Decent quality homes

Additional needs for teens:

Younger people have good aspirations that can be lost by age 16.
Differences in areas across the City.
Young people get branded as gangs.
Youth provision centre reduced.

Meeting those needs:

Establish need – children need parents who know how to be parents; access to good, healthy food, secure environment, access to safe open spaces.
Birth to school nurseries.
Childrens centres – safe place.
Practical parenting skills/Home environment (stability).
Parents actively engaged – relationship from schools to parents
Increased focus on quality education and training
Improved careers advice and range of options for less academic students
Focus on university/further education not meeting needs of all
Preventative work rather than crisis solving
Those that need most, received first.
Dysfunctional family units – pull it right back.
Integration of services, family support / Support package for whole family /Multi-agency working / responsive and timely interventions
Health inequalities/ 6 objectives to tackle health inequalities.
Best start for every child – all services working cohesively – co-production.
Systematic approach.
Consistency, prioritisation of resources (currently a perpetual lack).
Hubs/District Trust to focus resources.
Foodbanks /Child poverty/ household budgeting training.
Broad community services – Sanctuary – reintroduce mentors back in schools.
Are our services hard to reach?

Protection elements /Police local/regional processes /TAF team around the families
– consistency as schools sporadic attendees/MASH – consent key issue on shaping issues.

10-16: £8m – programmes how to link in.

Children to Adult – gap.

Understanding of anti-social behaviour – guidance/positive role models

What young people can contribute?

Passion

A feeling that they are the future

Able to contribute positively into society

Young leaders / Youth Voice

Mid-life

What do people at this stage of life need?

Jobs /Homes /Family /Health /Leisure/social activities / secure & safe environment

A natural progression through life.

Target group are expected to be independent and responsible – can be overlooked

The forgotten generation

More external factors – bring on negative effects regardless of upbringing

Skills provision /More provisions and support generally

Find other projects/social activities that provide the support without labelling the need.

Discretion – provide/find their own support – links with the community.

Holistic approach by service providers.

To stop being overlooked and criticised

A break from the cycle of negativity

Gain a sense of purpose/direction/ambition / motivation.

Meet individual needs but having equity for all

Resolution of the postcode lottery – if you can't get access you ignore it (health etc.) until crisis point.

Is more support aimed at the young or old cohorts?

Work with GP's to increase support for wider aspects.

High Street improvements

Choices

Same needs as Young People, just accessed differently as people are either very independent in this group or need support to access.

Financially viable/secure – impacts on mental wellbeing.

Choice v means – do have means to choose which path to take. This then influences your life and can result in:

Social isolation

Financial isolation

Lower resilience

Inability to deal with family or life crisis

Need somewhere safe to live, may be financially stable but have no social life, this can have a massive impact on how you live your life, how you access 'your' community.

How do we connect local people with local jobs.

Aspirations – we need to keep these going.
Health – mental illness; people can get lost; alcohol
Access to opportunities, employment, good homes, finance, health and wellbeing initiatives.
Residents lacking in confidence to access programmes/support.
Apathy, lack of motivation
Friends, support networks, connectivity, technology (smart phones)
Embracing technology to access opportunity
Redundancy – new and emerging issue
Can often be in a dual caring role; either for young children or elderly relatives (or both) which can result in people not looking after themselves and in turn becoming unable to care.
Juggling responsibilities – family, work, relatives etc. Maybe a better network of support along the lines of Home Start but for people in mid life.

How well are those needs met?

Environment could be better
Employment – need more local training and employment
More help with adult education to help people back into work
Pretty good transport links
Fuel poverty
Provision is there – do people know how to access provision.
What are the barriers.

What can Erdington people and partners contribute towards meeting those needs?

Close the gaps around adult education – basic skills, practical skills, and making use of unemployed older adults to work alongside youngsters to assist with skills training and apprenticeships.
What can statutory bodies do for third sector.
Local Authorities need to be asking community and voluntary sector, what they need to support the community.
Statutory bodies, council/public services, third sector should maximise their services and sustain them.
Encourage volunteering/mentoring amongst schools, nurseries, care homes, third sector environment organisations etc.

The Later Years:

What do people at this stage of life need?

To have a voice /To feel safe /To feel valued and a part of society
Social Interaction critical / social networks / opportunities / independence
Reduced isolation and loneliness
Inspiration – 10 year stage
Support Mechanisms – working longer
Families more fluid / distant /Care provision and resources
Neighbourhoods /Facilities / Access to Services
Community Family Support

Wellbeing checks for older residents
Health & Wellbeing – dementia, mental health – impact on others
An understanding of what options are available to them
Retiring generation – channel their skills
Retirement plans
Whole age package – not young/middle aged/old
Exemplar access to end of life care / Dignity and compassion
Activities developed by themselves – co-designating/co-production
Other people to be more aware and considerate of older people's needs
Need a sustainable co-ordinated approach
Housing downsizing – within the same area for support/appropriate housing

How well are those needs met?

44% of adults in Kingstanding suffer life limiting illnesses.
Re-socialisation – getting back to family basics and extended families.

What can Erdington people and partners contribute towards meeting those needs?

Early intervention
Volunteering
Extra care model/retired fit and health
Ensure there is a choice of services, not predetermined by the service provider.
New services for frail elderly currently living independently – new ideas, new options.
Capture the untapped resource to make the most of their knowledge and experiences
Working partnership eg successful operation in USA where a nursery is in the same building as a dementia care home.
Granny sitting
Elder visits
Telephone contact (telebuddies)
Spare rooms utilised
Community support
Joined up agency working instead of working independently and in isolation

What can older people contribute?

Community Champions

Partner Pledges

At the convention partners were invited to complete, on a voluntary basis, a pledge form setting out what they as an individual or as a representative of an organization could do to support Hodge Hill District over the coming months. 23 such pledges were made on the day. In addition 39 attendees expressed an interest in receiving information or attending meetings on one or more of the following themed topics:

- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Clean & Green
- Community Safety

This information will be put to use in the manner outlined under 'Next Steps'.

Next Steps:

1. This report will be shared with The Erdington District Committee and with partners on the District Advisory Group.
2. This report will be shared with the 5 Erdington themed sub-groups:
 - a. Employment Group
 - b. Health Group
 - c. Community Safety Group
 - d. Housing Group
 - e. Clean & Green Group

Each group will be encouraged to consider the workshop findings contained in the report and to incorporate appropriate actions within themed action plans where relevant to the group and practical to do so.

3. The pledges made by individuals and organisations will be shared with the lead partner for each themed group where they relate to the themed work area.
4. Individuals / organisations who expressed an interest in receiving more information or being part of a themed sub-groups will be invited to get more involved at the discretion of the theme lead.
5. This report will be used to influence the final Erdington District Plan for 2016/17 and onwards.