

Member Forum  
17 July 2018  
Statements from councillors



**Procedural note:**

**STATEMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS:**

- A maximum of 1 minute shall be allowed for the presentation of each statement (subject to overall time constraints).
- There shall be no debate on the statements and the Lord Mayor shall refer them to the Mayor for information/consideration.
- Statements will be dealt with in the order of receipt (subject to time).



**The following statement has been submitted – full details are attached:**

CS 01 - Cllr Ruth Pickersgill – Recognising the positive impact of early education

CS 02 - Cllr Mike Davies - Parking and road safety problems in Bishopston and St Andrews



## STATEMENT CS 01

### Recognising the Positive Impact of Early Education

Our Children's Centres have just gone through a period of rapid change and a really painful restructure. I commend the Mayor and the Cabinet Lead, Helen Godwin for their commitment to this area and their determination to preserve the best that we can offer families. However, they now need a period of stability so that the new integrated model of early education and care, with nursery schools acting as the hubs and providing expertise to the sector, has time to embed and to deliver outcomes we need.

Those of us who are nursery governors see every day the impact of high quality education and care for young children, and particularly value their accountable democratic governance model. We understand the essential role that well qualified teachers play in assessing needs and tailoring learning so that our most vulnerable children, who would otherwise enter school well below expected levels of development, are enabled to catch up with their peers. We know that our nurseries and children's centres are in the areas of most need and take a higher than average percentage of children with special educational needs and disadvantaged family backgrounds. We see that their early intervention enables children with speech and language delays to receive appropriate support and to avoid losing valuable learning time when they reach statutory school age. We know that staff pick up safeguarding issues every day and are often able to manage them effectively in a supportive way with whole family work, preventing the families needing to access expensive targeted social care services. **The offer is universal, accountable to communities and parents, and non-stigmatised - a recent consultation showed that is what families value and trust.**

There is much research about how nursery schools are key assets in improving social mobility and reducing inequality in ways other settings cannot. A recent article in Chicago, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2668645> evidenced the long term benefits and long term cost saving, of early education for vulnerable groups led by a teacher. Prof Imran Siraj from the Institute Of Education in the University of London researched which pre-school settings had the most effective outcomes, and found that children from fully integrated education and care settings and nursery schools do better on cognitive outcomes and are better at fostering children's social development- even after taking account of children's backgrounds. They also found a correlation between the amount of time children spent with staff qualified at level 5 and positive outcomes.

The success of our Early Years provision in Bristol is based on well-established partnerships with a wide range of community and statutory sector providers. We have a systems leadership approach based on early years' pedagogy which is well regarded nationally as an effective model for improving social mobility. We have Lead Teachers and SLEs contributing to improving outcomes for children and families, reducing inequalities and narrowing the gaps, through professional development and sharing good practice. Families are supported through non-

stigmatised routes in to universal services, and any targeted support is delivered by teams who work with the whole family, and are supported by the key person in their Early Years setting. The support continues into schools in the context of well-established and trusting relationships with our families.

Nationally, as maintained Nursery Schools are battling against Government funding cuts, Nadhim Zahawi who is Parliamentary Under Secretary for State for Education has said that he 'urges Councils not to take premature decisions on the future of nurseries' before 2020 when the transitional funding arrangement ends.

**I therefore urge the Mayor and Cabinet lead not to change the current direction of travel and management and to allow the new integrated nursery school and children centre model with their non-stigmatised universal services and accountable structures to embed and demonstrate that they can deliver the best possible outcomes for Bristol families before any further changes are made.**

Councillor Ruth Pickersgill

## **STATEMENT CS 02**

I write in support of local residents who have been working to raise awareness of the parking and road safety problems in Bishopston and St Andrews. For two years I have been receiving a large number of letters and emails about these issues, and have been having meetings with residents along with my councillor colleagues for Ashley and Redland.

Because these areas border other RPSs, but do not have one themselves, a number of problems have arisen:

- Shortage of parking spaces for residents and Gloucester Road businesses.
- Vehicles driving around trying to find spaces, damaging air quality.
- Feeling among residents that their streets are chaotic and stressful. Some residents say they want to leave the area because things are so bad.
- Pavement parking and parking on corners, junctions and drop-kerbs. This impairs accessibility and visibility, increasing the likelihood of accidents and making those with mobility issues feel afraid to go out. It also means that in some roads emergency vehicles are unable to gain access.

Recently, Thangam Debbonaire MP distributed a survey to residents and hosted a public meeting on this. There was an overwhelming feeling that action needed to be taken, and a majority view that a new RPS was likely to be the solution.

It seems to be becoming clear that the original set of parking zones was an unfinished project, and that the schemes have not been rolled out as far as they need to be. This is not merely an issue of convenience of parking for residents – there are serious concerns around highway safety, air quality, and accessibility of pavements.

I am grateful to Cllr Threlfall for the positive dialogue so far with myself, other councillors, and residents, and hope that this can continue constructively towards a solution being found.

Cllr Mike Davies