

Jack Dromey MP

Speaking at the APPG on Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes 11th October 2016

You have got 43 days to make a difference with our support. 43 days between now and the Autumn Statement spending review.

Three things;

First – a new government, new approach towards public expenditure. Saying that they will bring forward proposals, starting with the Autumn statement of the 23rd November.

Second – the review that you have all taken part in, now under consideration at the DfE. Announcements due to be made shortly before or on the 23rd November.

Third – A great deal of emphasis is being placed by the Prime Minister on social mobility. The question is how you deliver social mobility. We have heard excellent presentations on no better route of achieving social mobility than giving children the best possible start in life.

What I want to do is report to you about what we are doing in Birmingham which is one of the hardest hit areas in the whole of Britain. We are doing as follows;

First – The four nursery schools in Erdington have got together and involved the public as a whole, including a Fun Day that is all about bringing home to the community why nursery schools matter. I think all of you should look at doing something similar.

Second – On the 26th October I am leading a delegation together with the Heads of the nursery schools to meet with the Minister responsible, Caroline Dineage. She has agreed to meet with us, I welcome that and I would suggest that you take similar initiatives in the area from which you come.

Third – On the 27th October we have got Birmingham City Council to convene an early year's summit for all our nursery schools and children's centres so that right across the city we ensure that the voice of children is heard as we move toward the making by Government of decisions that will be of vital importance.

Fourth – we have already had some very good media coverage with the Birmingham Post and Mail now championing the cause at the next stages including the delegation to ministers and the summit. In your local areas, approach your local authority in terms of a similar summit and approach your local newspapers, TV and radio to do something similar.

Fifth – we will be launching, with support from the press, a petition from across the city. We will as officers of the APPG look at the potential for a national petition but don't wait for that to transpire. Get on with setting up local petitions. If you are taking up a petition from your parents or your nursery school and you are having difficulties meeting with your MP, you might want to alert the press and turn up with it at his or her surgery. We have to get all MPs involved at the next stages from all parties.

I don't want to underestimate the scale of the task that we face at the next stages. You've got 43 days – go for it!