

CCBA

Prime Minister
Workbook for Brian to
send these to Kenneth Baker?

DES 20/11

PRIME MINISTER

20 November 1987

Yes - the gov would require extra funding
not

DES and the Government's Inner City Initiative

Kenneth Baker asked me if I could put forward ideas for a DES contribution to an Inner Cities Policy initiative. I enclose some thoughts.

1. Business and Inner City Schools

A number of business organisations are about to launch initiatives connected with the inner city: B.I.C, C.B.I and ElevenCo (a new consortium of the 11 leading construction companies set up to handle urban regeneration). Individual companies are also concerned to establish new initiatives (BT, Hanson Trust etc).

It would be useful if each of these initiatives could have an education dimension (e.g. governors nominated by companies, funding of equipment, curriculum development) - so that inner city schools could be more oriented to business and benefit from the involvement of business people.

Perhaps the government should go further and attempt to secure a "Boston compact" type arrangement placed in all inner city schools?

2. Parents

Why not set up a major initiative with inner city parents? We know that the expectations, standards and the authority of parents is a critical factor in pupils' success.

Why not get parents and leaders from black churches to be a major part of the scheme? They could produce handouts, visit homes, and organise meetings dealing with the role of parents in monitoring homework, standards of dress, personal discipline, encouraging involvement, developing self-esteem etc.

3. Improving the fabric of schools

Some existing capital expenditure due to be announced next month will be targetted on inner-city areas. Why not make a virtue of necessity, and link it to a scheme for improving the fabric of run-down inner city schools? It might also be possible for construction companies to seek involvement as part of their social responsibility.

4. Pride in the School

In some inner city areas, the buildings and school playgrounds are drab and filthy. These may be in areas of high unemployment, in which near to the schools, the relatives of school children are sitting in their homes doing nothing. Could we not get the neighbourhood - through the parents, children or governors - involved in redecoration and repairs in order to improve the

appearance of the school? Good governors and heads would immediately see the value of it as something they could literally build on in developing pride in the school.

5. **Adult Literacy**

Illiteracy is a major barrier to employment. It is high in certain ethnic areas and with disastrous consequences. Could we not try and involve BBC, ITN and some of the large ITV companies (Granada, Thames and Yorkshire) in a major drive to raise literacy and improve English in our inner city areas? Why not get some celebrities to visit inner city literacy projects and possibly advertise them on television?

6. **Community Schools**

In two areas I have visited recently (Glasgow and Tyneside) I have been most impressed by the number of adults in these areas who were going back to school. In one Tyneside school nearly 500 adults attend various courses each week. Could not a special leaflet/initiative be produced and distributed to all JobCentres, Job Clubs, JTS projects etc., setting out the opportunities through community schools. Could we not encourage LEAs in inner city areas to set up more community schools?

Why not give teachers and heads extra compensation for greater enrolment? Why not get some private companies to sponsor this kind of activity?

7. Schools that Work

Celebrate the success of 10 successful schools in inner cities/outer-housing estates which have been turned around. Invite a trained outsider to interview heads, observe the schools, detail their results and then write it up in an attractive publication for which you could write the foreword. This would almost certainly be attractive for the tabloids or television companies to take up.

8. Polys and Universities

A significant number of polys and universities are located in inner city areas. It is important that higher education institutions recognise their responsibility to areas of greatest deprivation.

Why not get academic entrepreneurs such as John Ashworth, Fred Crawford, Graham Hills, Ray Rickett or Kenneth Durrans to come forward with initiative students and staff might take, based on their institutions? It would be useful to start with an inventory of everything that is at present being done.

9. Playing Fields and Sports

Organised team sports can play a valuable role in providing discipline, motivation and an outlet for energy that might otherwise turn to aggression. Yet many inner city have little or no community provision of sports facilities. Why not open up school facilities

for regular use by local sports organisations, fostering interest and commitment by involving star players as occasional coaches? Membership of youth teams could also be a reward for a good record of school attendance.

Conclusion

None of these 9 initiatives need involve extra public spending. But some of them require the right leaders; and others the need for the government to give a proper steer.

If you are content I will send them to Kenneth Baker.

Brian Griffiths

BRIAN GRIFFITHS