

PRESS RELEASE

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1 October 2008

David Cameron visits Kingstanding

The Lakeside Children's and Family Learning Centre received as special visitor earlier this month when David Cameron, leader of the Conservative Party spent time in Kingstanding as part of a day touring Birmingham meeting members of the community to hear their concerns and issues.

Mr Cameron's visit was organised by Panorama, the well known BBC1 investigative journalism programme for an episode broadcast Monday 29th September to coincide with the Conservative Party Conference taking place this week at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

On Monday 8th September, the Conservative leader travelled to Birmingham accompanied by Nick Robinson, journalist and presenter of Panorama and spent time in and around the Lakeside Centre as part of a day out and about amongst local communities in Birmingham.

Geraldine Dowling, a single mother of two teenagers and manager of the Lakeside Children's and Family Learning Centre has daily contact with the particular problems that form what Cameron calls the 'broken society'. Geraldine spent time showing Mr Cameron around the Wyrley Birch estate and talking to him about the range of issues faced by local people and the role of the Lakeside Centre in providing education, family support and health services.

Geraldine says "The Wyrley Birch estate suffers from high levels of unemployment and family breakdown and I wanted to question whether David Cameron could understand the realities of life on estates like ours, when he comes from such a privileged background".

"You can sit and read a book and it will fill your head with knowledge but reading about it and doing it are two totally different things. I particularly challenged Mr Cameron on the need to spend longer out and about with communities to gain a fuller understanding of issues faced and how the government could help".

Other members of the Birmingham community who met with Mr Cameron during his visit include a Birmingham DJ concerned about the culture of disrespect and gang violence in the city and the owner of an organic café and WWF campaigner worried that the Conservative Party's widely reported commitment to the environment is just a passing fad.

For further information, please contact Charlotte Light on 0121 200 1096 / charlottelight@entapeople.com

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Editors Notes

1) ENTA has been working across Birmingham since 1977 providing learning opportunities, training, information, advice and guidance to help people think about and prepare for paid employment.

As a Community Interest Company (CIC) ENTA is a not-for-profit organisation working in the community, for the benefit of the community. The work of ENTA fulfils our vision of enabling all people to achieve their potential, no matter what barriers they have faced in education, employment or training.

ENTA has 3 bases in Birmingham City Centre (head office, main training academy and IT training centre) plus 2 bases in the community on the Wyrley Birch Estate, Kingstanding (Lakeside Children's and Family Learning Centre and a Community Learning Centre)

**For further information please contact Charlotte Light (PR) on 0121 200 1096
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