



Campaign to Retain
Our School Services!

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Write to us at **CROSS**, via BANUT, via Park Hill School, Alcester Road, B'ham B13 8BB

Website: <http://crossbrum.weebly.com/> **Email:** crossbrum@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/CrossBrum/174067739287644>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CrossBrum>

Friday 3rd December 2010

Re: Your support to stop Birmingham's Central Services cuts

Dear Head Teacher,

We are alarmed at the cuts that Birmingham City Council have decided to make to Central Services. The cuts themselves will put more pressure on your budgets and may mean that your school and students lose vital services or have to pay a lot more for them.

Amongst the services affected are:

Music Service	Outdoor Learning Service
Services for SEN children	Early Years' Teacher Support
Behaviour Support Service	Birmingham Advisory and Support Service
School Effectiveness	Extended Schools
Education Action Zones	City Learning Centres
Support for supplementary schools	School and Governor support
Health Education Service	Catering and cleaning
Family Learning Service	International Office (school exchange)
Arts Education	Ethnic Minority Pupil Support

The impact on staff in these services is immense. The cuts will mean redundancies which will put pressure on the ability of staff to deliver the service you require which in turn will affect staff morale.

In addition, Birmingham City Council is currently looking to effectively privatise many of these services into 'fully traded co-operatives'. We believe this will lead to a poorer service and push up the cost as these 'co-operatives' compete with profit making companies in the open market. We believe that this will also downgrade these services as the Local Authority relinquishes any degree of responsibility and accountability of the services that it should strategically be providing for our children.

While we are aware that schools may take up various aspects of Central Services to different degrees, we believe that these services are vital to ensure that our children get the most out of school regardless of their own individual backgrounds.

We believe that these vital services are in danger of quietly being cut away. Once they are gone, they may be lost forever. For these reasons we are asking you to join us in putting pressure on the City Council to ensure not only the survival but the improvement of these services.

If you agree that these services are vital for your students and schools please help us by doing any or all of the following overleaf:

Speak out! You can do this in a number of ways.

a. Sign the attached petition and urge others (including your Governing Body and parent groups) to do the same. We plan to send significant signatures initially as a press release to the Birmingham media in the run up to an important vote over the future of these services at the next full Council meeting on Tuesday 7th December as well as showing support for parent and staff campaigns.

b. Write letters to the Birmingham Mail and Post stating why these services are so vital to your children and why you want to ensure their continued survival as the education cuts mount.

c. Email both Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council, and Les Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families explaining the benefits of these services for your students and your concern over the cuts, price increases and attempts to make many Central Services 'fully-traded co-operatives'. In particular we would encourage you to ask whether there are any pedagogical reasons for these cuts and what the impact will be on meeting equality objectives in this city.

Contact Stephen Hughes at stephen_hughes@birmingham.gov.uk and Les Lawrence at Les.Lawrence@birmingham.gov.uk

d. Come along to, and let others know about, the CROSS public meeting at the Council House, Victoria Square at 7pm on Tuesday 18th January 2011.

e. Contact us for more information about the cuts. Email cross@gmail.com for more details.

In addition, we don't believe that these cuts have to happen. The Trades Union Congress has made clear that tackling tax avoidance by the wealthy could reduce the deficit and pay for decent public services for all. A 'Robin Hood Tax' on banking transactions could also bring in £20 billion a year. Instead of implementing plans to cut our services, we urge the City Council to stand up for its children and staff by pressing the Government for more money. For details of this please look up:

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/industrial/tuc-18087-f0.pdf> and <http://robinhoodtax.org/>

Yours,

David Ambler, Birmingham ATL (0121 303 8870)

Tony Hughes, Birmingham GMB (0121 675 8036)

John Hemingway, Birmingham NASUWT (0121 232 9490)

Doug Morgan, Birmingham NUT (0121 442 2031)

Dave Robinson, Birmingham UNISON (0121 622 8720)

Jane Hetherington, Birmingham Voice (0121 382 7745)

The **Campaign to Retain Our School Services** is a new Birmingham campaign that is supported by the trade unions listed above. It is a campaign of staff, service users and concerned citizens about the effects of the cuts in Birmingham Central Services on students, staff and schools.

For details look up: <http://crossbrum.weebly.com/>

