

Extract from MP Update – 28th January 2012

NEWS AND COMMENT FROM CHRIS LESLIE MP – Saturday 28th January



While many of our school results go from strength to strength, there are still hundreds of children who fall through the net, have poor attendance or who are excluded – but who still need a full time education. I have discussed in previous updates my thoughts about the ‘alternative education’ sector in the City, and spent time on Friday with one fantastic provider – the charity ‘Wheelbase’ – who use motor engineering as a way of engaging teenagers and reintroducing them to learning. Technically a school, Wheelbase work hard to appear more like an ordinary garage workshop where car and motorbike repair skills are high on the agenda (see picture left with their headteacher and CEO Mick Clifford). They are an award-winning provider of alternative education and have a high track

record of retaining the interest and attendance of young people who would otherwise fall out of the school system altogether. Using peer-to-peer learning and sparking an interest so that the young person can become self-motivated seem to be critical here. But funding pressures are becoming more acute as grant support falls back. This is a ‘stitch in time’ investment which staves off so much more expense picking up the pieces in later years – and I will be trying to help them maintain their service as best I can.

Best wishes,

Chris Leslie

Labour MP for Nottingham East

(more from Chris at [Go to Chris Leslie's Blog](#))