

Appendix 1

28th March 2019

Headteacher
All Wiltshire Schools

Finance Team
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your ref: n/a
Our ref : f40 1

Dear Colleague

Re: f40 School Funding Questionnaire

We are writing to you collectively on behalf of Wiltshire Council and Schools Forum.

We are all fully committed to fighting for a fair deal for education in the county. Wiltshire has an impeccable record of working closely and successfully with Schools Forum.

We are determined to articulate a united and consistent message from Wiltshire to central government, as well as the county's MPs, to support the case for an overall fairer funding settlement. This reinforces the argument that there is simply not enough money in the system. Primary Heads Forum and Wiltshire Association of Secondary and Special Heads, along with individual schools and parents, have been proactive in lobbying local and national MPs and Ministers and it is our wish to continue to work alongside you in our campaign, at the highest levels, to secure increased education funding for schools.

A new approach to the campaign which includes a format for collecting real-life case studies to provide evidence on the crucial need for increased funding to the DfE and the Treasury. We need your help as we need actual examples of how your school is being affected by the loss of funding and the impact that is having on our children. This will help us illustrate very starkly the overall position for Wiltshire.

In the link below is a survey that we very much hope you will complete and return to us. The information collected will help us to advance the case with our MPs, with Ministers and Whitehall as well as the media.

[Link to survey here:](#)

We hope it will also help galvanise parents, as the people whose votes will make a difference to our politicians, to become more vocal in their support for our schools.

To remind you of the countywide picture, Wiltshire is the seventh lowest funded Council in the Country and the number of schools in deficit at the end of the last financial year 2017/18 financial year rose by 12% from those in deficit in 2016/17. Our high needs budget is projected to overspend by £4.6 million – largely driven by rising numbers of

EHCPS – a funding gap similar to that of many other local authorities. Whilst local action plans are very much in place to reduce spend, with rising demand and an elongated age group 0-25 years in scope, the long-term solution remains a national increase in Schools Funding. Only increasing base budget will allow strategic plans to be rolled out.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Baker, Chair Schools Forum

Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services

Please address any queries regarding this letter or questionnaire to:

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