

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group 23rd May 2022

Schools Forum 9th June 2022

F40 – Update for Members of Schools Forum

Purpose of report

1. To provide members of Schools Forum with an update on the membership of F40 and the current work of the F40 Group.

Background

2. The F40 is made up of 42 local authority members that are among the lowest funded for education from across England. It campaigns for fairer and increased funding in all areas of education, including primary and secondary schools, Early Years, 16-19, and High Needs (SEND) up to age 25. A list of current members is provided at the end of this report.
3. F40 seeks fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live and wishes to see all schools properly funded to enable them to provide a quality education that enables children and young people to reach their potential. The basic funding should be enough to run a school before extra money is added on for any additional needs specific to a school or its pupils.
4. Historically, education funding has been unfair in England for many years. While good progress has been made with the introduction of the National Funding Formula, there are still too many discrepancies locked into how schools are funded.
5. F40 believes that it's wrong that schools very similar in nature receive very different levels of funding – purely because of their location. F40 appreciate there will always be a difference in funding between some schools in specific areas, such as London, but do not accept the extent of the variation.
6. F40 are also very concerned about the deepening SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) funding crisis, which requires bold and urgent improvements and additional funding to ensure the most vulnerable young people are provided with the best education and support.
7. At present, SEND funding is based on historic need and does not take into consideration the growing number of children with SEND or their increasing complexity of need. Funding has not kept pace with need, resulting in a £1 billion overspend in local authorities across England.

Appointments

8. The F40 has appointed a political representative from each of the major parties to play a leading role on f40's behalf in Parliament, helping to coordinate activities among MPs who represent f40 local authority members, and in raising issues around education funding in the House of Commons. The three members are.
 - Sir Gary Streeter MP (Conservative)
 - Layla Moran MP (Liberal Democrats)
 - Emma Hardy MP (Labour)
9. The current Chair of the F40 group is Cllr Alex Dale, who is also Cabinet Member for Education at Derbyshire County Council.

Recent Work

10. The F40 group has been working hard on behalf of its members and some of the recent activities include:
 - Briefing MPs on the 22nd of March 2022
 - Meeting the DfE's SEND team to discuss SEND review
 - 'Safety valve' discussions with the DfE around deficit SEND budgets
 - Meeting with Jon Andrews at the Education Policy Institute
 - Research into what fair education funding should look like
 - Responses to the Education white paper
 - Responses to the SEND review and green paper

Proposals

11. Schools' Forum notes the ongoing work of F40 on behalf of its members.

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List of f40 Members



Bath & North East Somerset Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Central Bedfordshire
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cornwall County Council
Derbyshire County Council
Devon County Council
Dorset Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Sussex County Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Hampshire County Council
Herefordshire Council
Kent County Council
Lincolnshire County Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Yorkshire County Council
North Northamptonshire Council
Northumberland County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Plymouth City Council
Shropshire County Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Somerset County Council
South Gloucestershire Council
Staffordshire County Council
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Suffolk County Council
Swindon Council
Torbay Council
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council
Warrington Council
Warwickshire County Council
West Northamptonshire Council
West Sussex County Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Wiltshire Council
Worcestershire County Council
York (City of) Council