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### **F40 Group seeks fair funding for every child**

The f40 Group, which represents the poorest-funded local education authorities in England, will be focusing on the theme “*Fair funding for every child*” when it holds its Spring Conference in Nottinghamshire on Saturday, 11 March 2006.

F40 chair, David Kidney MP for Stafford, a constituency that is part of the poorly funded Staffordshire County Council, says:

“We often hear Government Ministers stating that “every child matters” and rightly so. But we must point out that some children matter less than others so long as education funding is distributed by Government in the current unfair way.

“We support personalised learning so it’s reasonable for us to campaign for pupil-based funding that ensures pupils in similar circumstances, wherever in England they receive their education, receive similar funding. Education funding settlements have for too long been based on historic assumptions. Without doubt, funding is much higher everywhere, but the poorest funded authorities remain disadvantaged.

“Settlements that provide a minimum percentage of not very much keep pushing us further and further behind. We believe a system that tolerates such huge variations between schools and between LEAs is totally unacceptable.

“The f40 Group welcomes the promise of a fundamental review of public expenditure and is keen to work with the DfES to ensure a rational and fair funding system for each and every child. We are pleased to be having a dialogue with the Department’s officials and I am glad that one of the officials is attending our conference.”

Recently, as part of the review of funding arrangements for 2008 and 2009, the DfES invited f40 to demonstrate its **Funding Entitlement Model**, originally developed by East Riding of Yorkshire in conjunction with the local branch of the Association of School and College Leaders (formerly SHA).

**Dugald Sandeman**, the Joint Head of School and LEA Funding at the DfES, has agreed to attend the conference. He will be explaining the Government’s current and future position on funding arrangements. He will also offer us some feedback on his recent examination of the f40 Funding Model that he and his financial technicians undertook.

David Kidney added: “I believe f40 has made great progress recently and the poorest funded authorities can successfully influence the next funding review for 2008-09. The conference will provide clear direction for the next stages of our campaign”.