



## **f40 Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 17 July 2019 at LGA Offices, Smith Square, Westminster**

### **1. Attendances, apologies and changes to committee membership**

**Present:** Cllr James McInnes (Chair); MP Laura Smith (Vice Chair); Karen Westcott (Secretary); Margaret Judd, (Dorset CC); Cllr Michael Appleyard (Bucks CC); Cllr Ivan Ould (Leics CC); Carole Thomson, (Oxfordshire Schools Forum); Julia Harnden (ASCL); Cllr Roger Gough (Kent CC); Cllr Carol Gahan (Chester & Cheshire West); Emily Proffitt (Staffs Headteacher).

**Apologies:** Sir Gary Streeter MP (Vice Chair); Layla Moran MP (Vice Chair); Bob Standley (East Sussex CC); Will Morgan (Gloucestershire Schools Forum & The Cotswold School); Cllr Peter Downes (Cambs Schools Forum); Jon Pearsall (Regency High School Gov, Worcs); Judy Shaw (President, NAHT); Jackie Smith (CEO Brunel SEN MAT & Uplands Educational Trust); Steve Edmonds (NGA); Phil Haslett, (Glos CC); Cllr Nicole Meardon (Chester & Cheshire West); Cllr Alex Dale (Derbyshire CC); Grant Davis (Wiltshire Council); Eunice Finney (Amerton Farm); Gordon Jones (Suffolk CC).

**2. New Members:** Chairman JMcl welcomed f40 Vice Chair and MP Laura Smith to her first f40 executive committee meeting, along with Cllr Carol Gahan and headteacher Emily Proffitt, who were also attending for the first time.

JMcl said it was excellent that f40 had Vice Chairs that represented the three main political parties, and that he spoke for the whole executive committee when he thanked Laura Smith MP, Gary Streeter MP and Layla Moran MP for taking such an active role in the fair funding campaign.

LS said, as a former teacher, she had always been passionate about education and was delighted to be part of the group. She said she would do everything possible to support f40 and to raise the profile of education funding within the House of Commons and assist in rallying MPs in the Labour group.

LS said she would forward the letter that the Vice Chairs sent to the Chancellor about fair distribution of budgets and increased funding on to Conservative candidates Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt.

LS also said she supported f40's involvement in the Collaboration Group, including NEU, NAHT and ASCL, which have worked together and agreed that £12.6bn was needed in education to reverse the budget cuts. She felt that all of the groups speaking with one voice would get attention, show strength and demonstrate the effort and seriousness with which the agreed figures had been arrived at. LS also agreed to send a copy of the collaboration figures and press release to Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held 14 May 2019**

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a correct record of the meeting.

At the meeting in May, the issue of schools not receiving the full amount of Pupil Premium grants was discussed and members said it was due to children in Key Stage 1 not paying for school dinners, so they were not included in the Free School Meal numbers and therefore were not accounted for in

Pupil Premium. That meant that a number of schools were not receiving the Pupil Premium payments they were entitled to.

GJ said in Suffolk they had carried out an exercise to look into the issue and it had raised an additional £250,000, and he agreed to share the information with the group. KW to contact GJ to ask if he can share any relevant information.

#### **4. Ratification of Membership fees for 2019-20**

KW updated the group. She said annual subscriptions were outstanding from only three local authorities, and there were currently 42 members of f40.

#### **5. Matters to be noted**

- Minutes of Collaboration meeting – 22 May 2019. Noted.
- Update on the f40 MPs' briefing in the House of Commons in May. Noted.
- Letter to Chancellor from f40 Vice Chairs. Noted.
- Together for Education event in London on June 22. Noted.
- Save Our Schools Give Me Five day of action on July 5. Noted.
- LGA conference fringe event on school funding on July 3. Noted.

#### **6. Update on agreed Collaboration figures – press launch and MPs briefing**

KW updated the committee on the media launch of the Collaboration Group's projected funding figures of £12.6bn up to 2022-23 and said they had been well received at the MPs' briefing that morning. They had also received national media coverage.

MJ gave a short presentation on how the figures had been arrived at, explaining that f40's bottom up approach to funding had been used as a comparator to the way of calculating funding figures that had been used when arriving at the agreed figures. She said f40, the NEU, NAHT and ASCL had spent a lot of time working together on the figures and that Luke Sibieta, of the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS), had looked at the figures, and whilst not able to approve them, had agreed with the method used to calculate them. Any suggestions or comments he made were acted upon by the Collaboration Group, and indeed, the education funding figures publicly released by the IFS in June were similar to those reached by the Collaboration Group.

MJ said f40's own figures on the funding needed for both Schools Block and High Needs, released in the f40 Briefing Paper earlier this year, were very similar to those independently reached by the Collaboration Group, which showed similar approaches in how the costs of running a school were met.

She said the figures had been calculated on current education funding policy and using the latest pupil number projections, and included Early Years, Schools Block, Central Services, Pupil Premium, 16-19, SEND through to age 25, and capital funding.

MJ said the suggested funding increase was phased over four years and had been based on the GDP deflator.

JH said it was important that f40 and the unions used suitable language when talking to the DfE about the funding figures, saying that the Government was very keen for people not to look back, but to focus on the future, instead. Rather than talk about 'restoration figures', it would be better to talk about the minimum funding that education required.

RG said the GDP graph was very powerful as it showed that the percentage of Britain's GDP put into education was less than it was in the 60s and 70s. He said the percentage given to health seemed to go up under every Government.

JH outlined ASCL's True Cost of Education research, and said it was in response to Government asking: "What does the true cost of education look like?"

In its research, ASCL had factored in the cost of having a qualified teacher in every class and making sure that there were no more than 30 pupils in each class. ASCL believes that an additional investment of £5.4bn is needed over two further years, from 2023/24, to meet these basic expectations. These figures are also included in the Collaboration Group's funding figures.

JH said the Collaboration Group's figures were very much about quantum – the issue of how it should be distributed has not yet been debated.

MJ said f40's ideas on how the funding should be distributed may be different to others.

IO said he would be interested to know what percentage of schools in each authority area were academies. He said the DfE had to recognise that in some cases, even with academies, there was very little shift away from the National Funding Formula Model. He said only the schools and academies in the most affluent areas could raise additional money themselves; schools in poor areas were unable to raise a lot of income independently.

JMcl said now the figures had been agreed, it was important that f40 took them to the DfE for discussion.

JH suggested each of the organisations within the Collaboration Group should talk to the DfE independently about the new figures.

IO suggested that f40's three Vice Chairs be invited to represent the group at that meeting with the DfE. JMcl and KW to draft an email to the DfE.

CT shared an example, with figures, of a school in her area where the National Funding Formula had been fully implemented, yet they were not receiving the full amount allotted to them under Per Pupil funding because of the implications of SEND funding. She said it illustrated how the National Funding Formula was not filtering the correct levels of funding through to schools, even though they were doing everything correct and possible to acquire it.

## **7. Call for submissions to Government on SEND consultation – July 31 deadline**

KW said a number of local authorities had contacted her to say they were planning to make a submission to the consultation. KW to send out another reminder of the July 31 deadline, encouraging authorities to share their thoughts and experiences on SEND funding.

## **8. Headteachers march organised by Worth Less? to take place on Sept 27**

KW said she had circulated details about the Worth Less? march to f40 members, so they could pass on information to their headteachers, if they wished. KW said f40 could further support through social media.

## **9. Liberal Democrat Conference in Sept**

KW informed the executive that f40 had been invited by the NEU to be represented on a fringe event they were hosting during the Liberal Democrat Conference in September, which will focus on education funding.

Executive member Cllr Peter Downes has agreed to represent f40 on the panel.

#### **10. Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Chair of the LGA's Children and Young People Board**

JMcl said he met Anntoinette Bramble, chair of the LGA's Children and Young People Board and a councillor at Hackney Council, at the LGA conference and she had been very interested in the work of f40.

It was agreed that f40 would share information with her about the function of f40, including the new funding figures from the Collaboration Group, as well as circulating them to the Vice Chairs of the LGA's Children and Young People Board. KW and JMcl to draft something together.

IO suggested that f40 also make contact with Liz Truss, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, informing of the group's objectives around fair and increased funding. JMcl and KW to contact Liz Truss, as well.

#### **11. f40 annual conference**

KW said a provisional date of March 31, 2020 had been set for the conference. A conference room had been booked at the LGA in London.

#### **12. Speakers for the f40 annual conference**

MJ suggested the conference be titled Joining Up the Dots, showcasing the different stages of education and how they were all interlinked. Members agreed that both Early Years and 16-19 were of major concern, along with Schools Block and High Needs, so a conference that brought everything together may be beneficial.

JMcl suggested someone from the DfE be a keynote speaker at the conference. KW to contact the department to ask if someone could be available on the day.

It was agreed that a conference planning sub-committee be set up to organise the event and agree on speakers and workshops. JMcl, KW, CT and EP agreed to meet on September 10 at Methodist Central Hall in London to discuss. KW to issue a general invitation to executive members, asking for one other person to join the committee.

#### **13. f40 Social Media**

KW updated the committee on f40's Twitter and Facebook pages. They are both growing in support, although Facebook at a slower rate. A shortened version of the f40 fair funding video had been promoted on Facebook and had been well received. JMcl said it would be worth setting a small amount of budget aside each month in order to promote f40 content on Facebook going forward. He also said he would like f40 to produce a new video about education funding every year.

#### **14. Vice Chair Layla Moran**

KW said Liberal Democrat Vice Chair Layla Moran had expressed an interest in attending the next f40 meeting in October. She had sent her apologies for the July meeting.

#### **15. Membership and Financial Update**

KW updated the committee and said all but a handful of authorities had paid their new subscriptions and the f40 had a healthy bank balance. Only three authorities are still to pay their subscriptions.

#### **16. Date of future Executive Committee Meetings**

Dates of future meetings were agreed as 16 October 2019, 22 Jan 2020, 22 April 2020, 8 July 2020, and 14 October 2020.

#### **17. Any Other Business**

IO said he would like copies of the f40 videos. KW agreed to send them to him.

It was also suggested that Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole may be interested in joining f40. KW to make contact with them.

#### **18. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, October 16, 2019