

Fair funding for  
all schools

# **The campaign for fair funding - a presentation by f40**

July 5, 2022



# Presentation by f40 Executive members

- **Cllr Alex Dale, Cabinet Member for Education at Derbyshire County Council and f40 Chair**
- **Emily Proffitt, Headteacher of a Staffordshire primary school and f40 Deputy Chair**
- **Jackie Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Brunel Academies Trust and CEO of Uplands Enterprise Trust**



# **View from a local authority**

**Councillor Alex Dale**  
**Cabinet Member for Education**  
**Derbyshire County Council**



# The f40 campaign

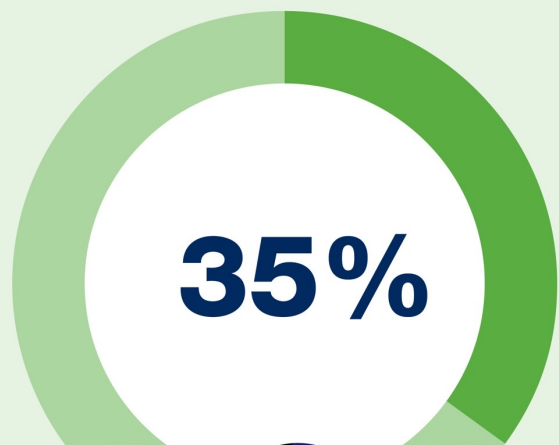
- f40 was launched around 25 years ago
- Borne out of unfairness in the way education funding was distributed
- f40 now has 42 local authority members across England



# f40 local authority members

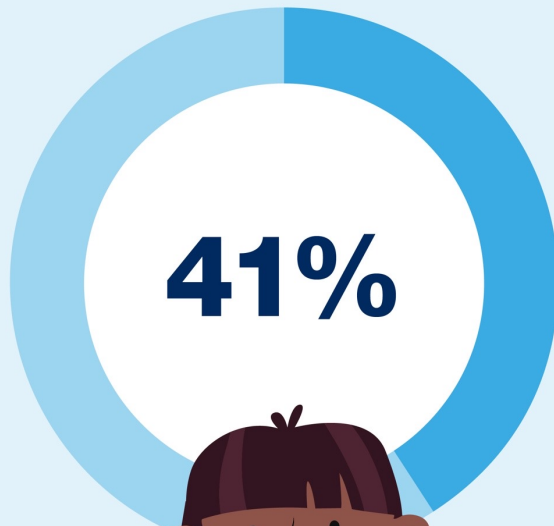


# How the f40 figures stack up



Total school pupils in f40 areas: **Over 2.9m**

**35%** of all schoolchildren in England



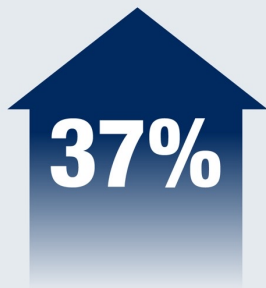
Total schools in f40 areas: **Almost 9,000**

**41%** of all schools in England

Children with EHCPs in maintained and independent schools: **Over 117,000**

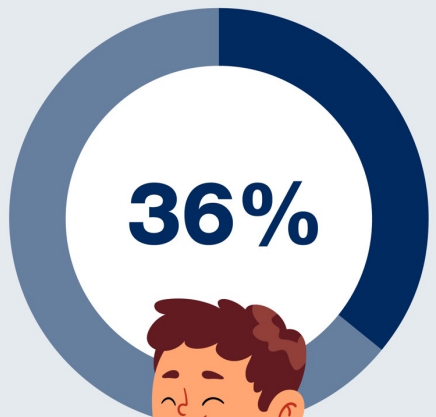
**36%** of national total of EHCPs

**Rise of 37% since 2016**



Percentage of EHCPs across all pupils in f40 areas:

**4.73%** vs.



National average: **3.84%**



# Why are some children worth more than others?

- Introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) was a positive step, but it.....
  - Still locks in historic inequalities
  - Does not give enough as a basic entitlement
  - Allows too much for “add-ons”

Basic allowance should be the same for each school before add-ons for deprivation and specific school and area costs

# How many more years will it take to get it right?

- Government has acknowledged unfairness but levelling up is too slow
- Increased funding packages in recent years have been very welcome, but still fall short of what is needed in real terms
- Unfairness continues
- Significant differences in funding and pressures between similar schools in different areas
- Some schools and areas are more “equal” than others
- The NFF is not yet doing its job – need a more direct route to fairness of funding
- The NFF should meet need without the requirement for protections

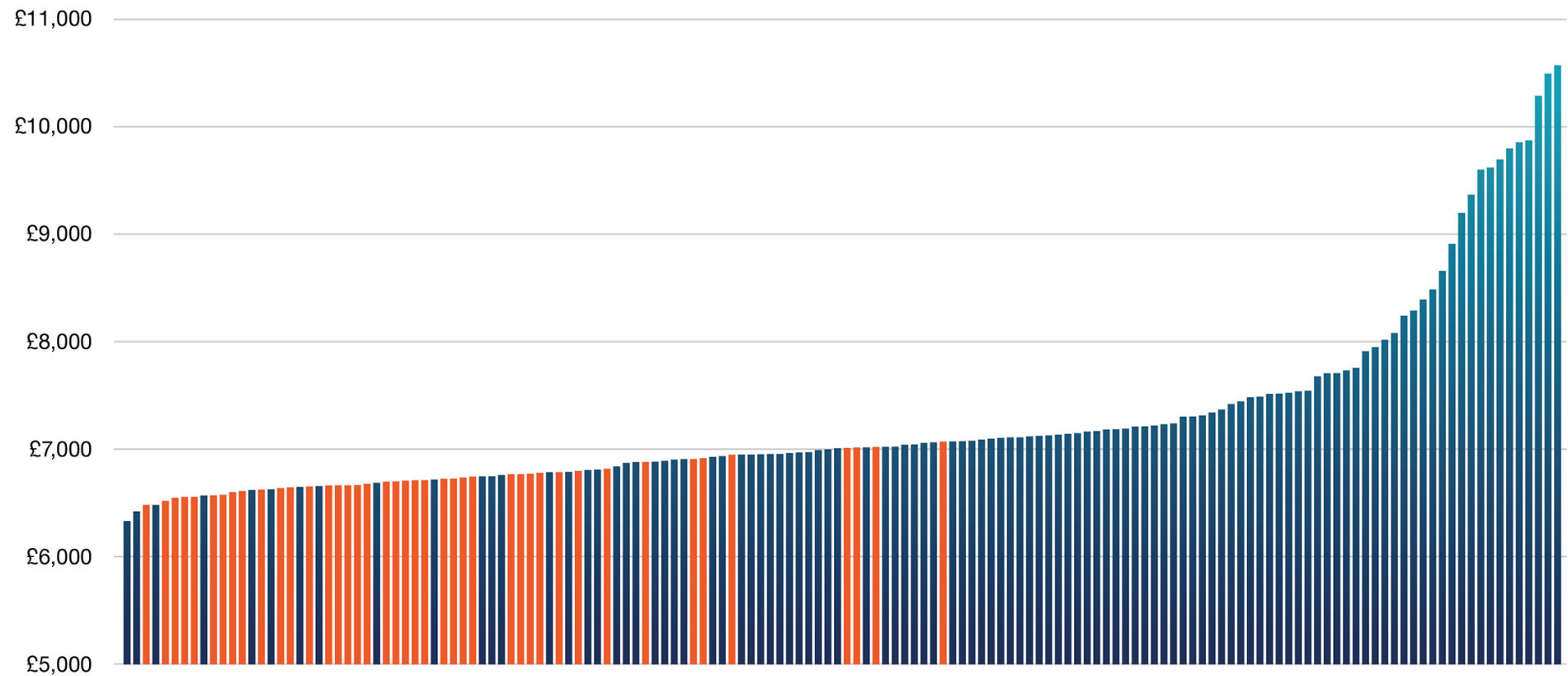




# Why is there so much variation in funding?

Gross DSG allocation per mainstream pupil by local authority (December 2021)

f40 members



# The deepening crisis in SEND

- Nowhere is the issue of quantum more important than in **SEND**
- Changes to the Code of Practice 2014 and insufficient funding have caused major challenges
- Rising numbers and rising complexity of need
- Running the risk of failing our most vulnerable children
- A clear national crisis – **more than £1bn overspend across England**
- Some authorities up to £100m deficit – do you know what yours is?
- A sustainable solution to deal with deficit budgets is required

# Funding concerns from f40 members – in a word



# Budgets are stretched

## Doing more with less...

### MORE

- Social/emotional/mental health needs
- Expectation/accountability
- Children with SEND
- Complexity of need
- Unprepared at Foundation Stage
- Deprivation
- Staff absence
- Rising costs
- Differences in funding



**VERSUS**

### LESS

- Funding
- Staffing (recruitment/retention)
- Staffing (affordability)
- Resources
- Specialist expertise/therapies
- Mental health support
- External agency
- Opportunities
- Time
- Fairness
- Support for parents



# **View from a headteacher**

**Emily Proffitt**

**Headteacher of a Staffordshire primary school  
and Deputy Chair of f40**





# Making ends meet

- Just emerged from deficit of £42,000 but forecast to be in deficit again next year
- Budgets stripped back as far as possible
- Gradual staff reduction to support stretched budget
- Every penny carefully accounted for / parents contributing more and more
- Relying on Before and After School clubs and extended nursery for income
- Budget increases wiped out by steep rising costs and demands
- Energy bills this winter will leave many schools struggling
- Lack of resources in support services (speech therapy/CAMHS) mean teachers are having to do more/pick up the pieces



# Impact of COVID-19

- Pupils' emotional / physical / mental well-being impacted by Covid
- Family resilience adversely impacted
- Insufficient additional money to cover increase in extra COVID-19 spending (cleaning / PPE / heating / energy costs / ventilation requirements)
- Increased staff absence / headteacher teaching / supply teacher costs
- No crystal ball to enable us to forward-plan in relation to COVID-19 costs

# SEND in mainstream schools

- Increased amount of pupils requiring support
- High and increasing level of early SEND, possibly as a result of COVID-19
- High levels of speech and language issues, as well as social concerns
- No available places in special schools, so pupils with high needs remain in mainstream education
- Increased amount of EHCPs / majority of teaching assistants attached through EHCPs
- Very little available support for children without EHCPs
- Let's celebrate SEND in mainstream schools
- Schools should not be penalised for high levels of SEND

# **The perfect storm - the SEND crisis**

**Jackie Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Brunel  
Academies Trust**

**and**

**CEO of Uplands Enterprise Trust**



# Inadequate funding for SEND

- Current funding formula based on historic need, not current, increased need
- Place funding of £10,000 not increased and inconsistent inflation applied to top-up funding since 2013
- Increased staff costs – 2013 teaching assistant was around £13,000 compared to £22,000 now)
- High Needs funding pot not increased to reflect increased age range to 25 years
- Insufficient local provision and increasing need leads to expensive out-of-borough placements
- Children's needs not met in a timely way due to slow and complex processes and systems

# Increasing numbers of SEND

- Increasingly complex needs – requiring greater expertise
- High demand for EHCPs and rising expectations on what they can deliver
- Increasing autism and communications diagnosis and demand
- Special schools / provisions often at capacity with waiting lists
- Capacity issues in all sectors (Education, Health & Care) results in lack of cross-sector collaboration & co-production. Health & Social Care relying on Education to facilitate and deliver
- Increasing capacity in specialist settings hampered by complexity in capital bid process

# System-led issues

- Newly-qualified teachers not equipped to teach SEND to children/young people
- Reduced capacity and skills in local authorities to support SEND delivery
- More integral funding / training / support in mainstream schools needed
- Lack of innovation and collaboration as schools protect funding
- Inconsistency in funding
- Reduced outreach and in-reach services – special schools' capacity and reduced expertise
- Balancing the need for additional places with High Needs deficit budgets
- Inconsistent SEND support and inclusive practice



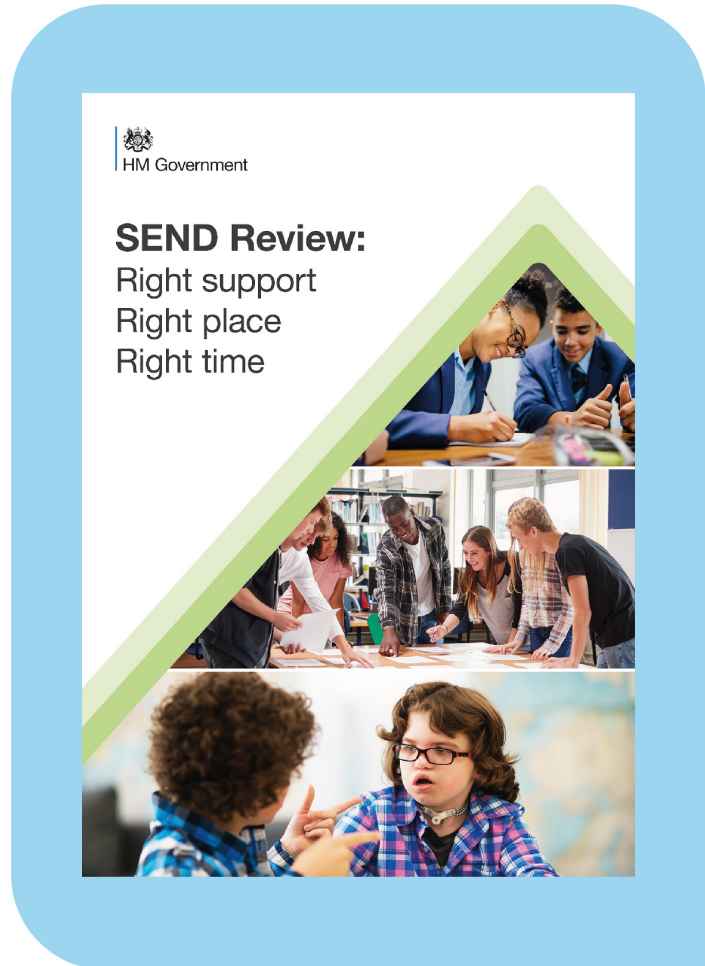
# Additional pressures on SEND schools

- Recruitment and retention of experienced SEND staff
- School leaders forced to be operational / unable to deliver on strategy
- Well-being of all – especially mental health and personal resilience
- Parent / carer desire for special school places – significant increase in tribunals

# Where does the future lie for SEND?

- SEND Review must lead to bold improvements and system change - now
- We agree with many of the ambitious suggestions and sentiment:
  - a) Emphasis on inclusion at mainstream
  - b) Early intervention
  - c) Additional SEND places
  - d) Quality alternative provision
- But – it won't happen without additional funding to meet need and to enable LAs to undertake their statutory functions and deliver these ambitious plans
- Major challenge around availability and retention of staff, including specialists and professionals – insufficient now and not available in the market
- Deficit budgets need to be settled

# How we believe we can get it right



f40 believes

**RIGHT FUNDING**

+

**RIGHT PEOPLE**

=

**RIGHT OUTCOMES**



**Thank you!**

**Any questions?**



# What you can do to help

- Sign our joint letter to the Chancellor calling on him to 'level up' education funding

To sign the letter, contact one of our Vice Chair MPs:

[Gary.streeter.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Gary.streeter.mp@parliament.uk)

[Layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk)

[Emma.hardy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Emma.hardy.mp@parliament.uk)

- Ask Ministers questions in the House on our behalf - example questions are in your f40 pack
- Request a meeting with your local authority's education department to help you understand the challenges in your local area

