

# ACTION FOR f40:



## How you can help us to halt the crisis in SEND and achieve fairer funding

**1** Sign our joint letter to the Chancellor calling on him to significantly boost SEND funding and to invest substantially more capital SEND funding

Contact f40 Vice Chairs:

Sir Gary Streeter MP  
[gary.streeter.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:gary.streeter.mp@parliament.uk)

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

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

**2** Ask Ministers questions in the House on our behalf

See overleaf for a list of draft questions which you can tweak as you see fit and submit as Written Questions or ask verbally in the House on our behalf.

**3** Request a meeting with your local authority's Education Department to help understand the challenges in your local area

We'd recommend you asking for a meeting with senior education officers and elected members responsible for education. Here's some questions we think you should ask:

- To what extent is your High Needs Block overspending at the moment?
- What is your total accumulated deficit on your Dedicated Schools Grant?
- If you have a deficit, what deficit recovery measures are you having to put in place and what will they mean for schools and children in your area?
- To what extent is SEND capacity an issue for your local authority? Was it successful in the latest round of bids for capital SEND funding?

## Questions to ask:

### SEND provision

- Will the Minister commit to the additional £4.6bn funding that f40 believes is required each year to meet unfunded growth and inflation, and to prevent the crisis in High Needs from worsening and deficit budgets from increasing?
- Can the Minister outline the Government's approach to dealing with more than a £2.3bn deficit in the Dedicated Schools Grant caused by the pressures on High Needs? The Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value programmes are not expected to reduce the deficits as demand grows.
- The SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan makes some good suggestions but will take several years to implement. Will the Minister commit to taking bold steps **now** to reform the SEND system to resolve the sufficiency crisis that has arisen since 2014?
- Budgets and capacity do not match the demand and expectation in SEND provision. Will the Minister commit to making policy changes that will help to better align budgets and available places with the growing need and complexity, and the rise in expectations?
- The current system cannot meet the demand on SEND provision, both in specialist provision and mainstream schools. Will the Minister commit to investing significantly more capital funding that can be distributed to all local authorities to help meet need, rather than being distributed to some authorities through a bidding system?

### Fairness of funding

- Will the Minister outline what measures are being put in place to help 'level up' education funding in England, including SEND funding?
- Can the Minister explain why, despite the introduction of the National Funding Formula, similar schools in different areas continue to receive such varied funding levels?
- Will the Minister explain how many years it will take under the National Funding Formula for similar schools in different areas to finally receive parity of funding without protections?
- Will the Minister commit to going even further with the National Funding Formula to ensure we have a fairer funding system for every school across the country?
- Will the Minister give a statement to explain the variation in both per pupil average mainstream school funding and High Needs funding across local authority areas in England?

### School funding

- Will the Minister give a statement on what additional funding schools can expect to receive to help them meet the rising costs of education, including teachers' pay?
- Will the Minister outline the Government's approach to a consistent and long-term capital strategy for all schools?

## For more information

For more information about f40, contact Secretary Karen Westcott at [karen@dtw.co.uk](mailto:karen@dtw.co.uk) or on 07545 210067

