



July 12, 2024

Invitation to work with f40 – campaigning for fairer funding, reform and investment in education

Dear Colleague

Congratulations on your recent election as a Member of Parliament.

I am writing to formally introduce myself as Chair of the f40 group, which represents 43 local authorities that receive among the lowest education funding in England, including your local authority.

We are campaigning for fairer education funding, along with major reform and investment in education, and a resolution to the crisis in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and invite you to support us as we work to ensure all children are given the best start in life.

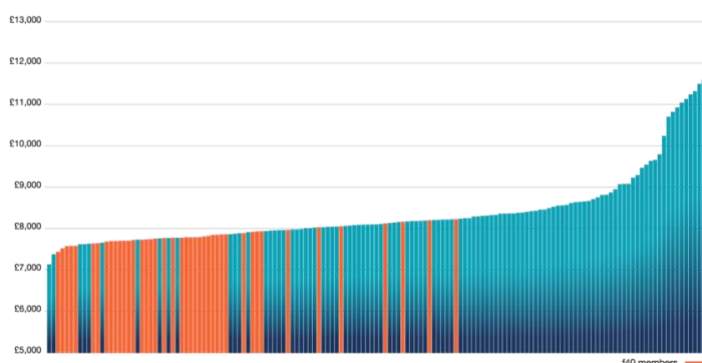
We will be hosting an MPs' briefing in Westminster after the summer recess to share our concerns and suggestions with you and will be in touch in due course with more information. Attached are our briefing documents so you can learn more about [f40](#) and our focus.

We recognise the current financial pressure on the UK economy and understand investing in public services is difficult. However, we believe we cannot afford **not** to invest if we want to provide young people with the best possible life chances and ensure future economic growth.

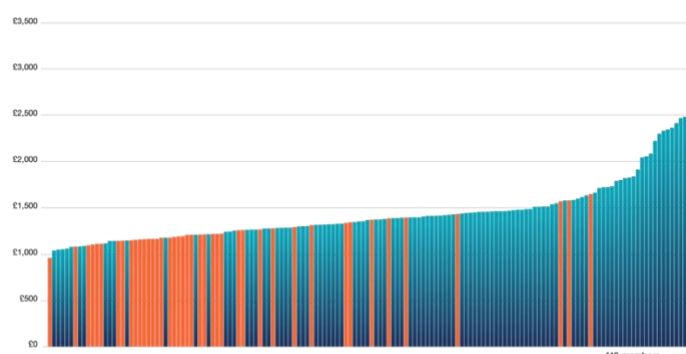
We believe major improvements in education and special educational needs will follow if we focus on Early Years, mainstream education, inclusion, and early help, and if we invest in SEND capital and better regulate the specialist independent SEND sector.

Ensuring that education funding is distributed more fairly will also help those local authorities and schools that currently receive far less than others, such as those in your constituency. We do not wish to see funding taken away from the highest funded areas, but we do wish to see the lower funded areas lifted up. You can see the disparity of funding below. More detailed copies of the graph are attached.

Variation of Gross DSG funding per mainstream pupil by local authority 2024-25



Variation of High Needs Block funding per pupil allocations 2024-25 by local authority



Your support would be greatly appreciated as we work with Government and the Department for Education to raise awareness of the challenges and suggest ways for improvement.

f40 believes we should:

- Reform and invest in mainstream education. Schools must be sufficiently funded, resourced, equipped, and supported to ensure children and young people reach their potential, with early intervention, inclusion, and accountability prioritised. Inspections should focus on how well inclusion is delivered, as well as academic achievement. Investment should also be targeted at support services, such as mental health and speech and language, which have been under-resourced in recent years and have fallen to schools and teachers to deliver without the necessary funding or training.
- Tackle the SEND crisis through reform and investment. Additional capital funding will enable local authorities to provide specialist provision for those with the greatest need, reducing the reliance on expensive independent provision, which is contributing to the growing deficit SEND budgets and spiralling transport costs. We also seek greater regulation of the specialist SEND independent sector.
- Amend and improve the National Funding Formulae to ensure the fair distribution of school and SEND funding, enabling flexibility in how funding is utilised. Historic proxy factors that lock in funding for some areas whilst capping others from receiving more should also be removed. We appreciate there will always be some differences in funding due to area living costs and specific school and pupil needs, but the current disparity is far too wide.

We look forward to working with you during this new term of Government and will be in touch soon to confirm details of the MPs' briefing in the autumn.

In the meantime, we encourage you to meet with your local authority education teams, including the Cabinet Member for Education, who will be very pleased to explain the funding challenges in your area, including around SEND provision.

Best wishes,



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Chair of f40

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