

**LGA Special Interest Group: Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board 2022**

<b>SIG Name:</b>	f40 campaign for fair school funding
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Chairman: Cllr Alex Dale, Derbyshire County Council
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Secretary: Karen Westcott

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<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>As of 31 March 2022, f40 had 42 member authorities. Namely:</p> <p>Bath &amp; North East Somerset          Buckinghamshire CC          Cambridgeshire CC          Central Bedfordshire          Cheshire East          Cheshire West and Chester          Cornwall County Council          Derbyshire CC          Devon CC          Dorset Council          East Riding of Yorkshire Council          East Sussex County Council          Gloucestershire CC          Hampshire CC          Herefordshire CC          Kent CC          Lincolnshire CC          North Lincolnshire Council          North Yorkshire CC          North Northamptonshire Council          Northumberland Council</p>	<p>Oxfordshire CC          Plymouth City Council          Shropshire CC          Solihull MDC          Somerset CC          South Gloucestershire Council          Staffordshire CC          Stockport MDC          Suffolk CC          Swindon Council          Torbay Council          Trafford MDC          Wakefield MDC          Warrington Council          Warwickshire CC          West Northamptonshire Council          West Sussex CC          Wigan MDC          Wiltshire Council          Worcestershire CC          York City Council</p>
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<p><b>Aim</b></p> <p>To organise an all-party campaign for fairer and increased funding for schools across England. Also campaigning for increased SEND funding, and fundamental change to the SEND funding system.</p>
<p><b>Key objectives and activities / outcomes of work undertaken</b></p> <p><b>Fairness</b>          f40 seeks fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live, and wishes to see all schools properly funded to enable them to provide a quality education. The basic entitlement should be enough to run a school before extra money is added on.</p> <p>While f40 is made up of 42 of the lowest funded local authorities for education across England, it campaigns for education funding for all schools.</p>

During the last 12 months, f40 had yet another very busy year as we continued to campaign for greater fairness and increased funding, particularly as schools emerged from the Covid pandemic facing additional costs and mounting pressures.

With the cost of living increasing, and the rise of energy and fuel bills, schools require f40 to campaign on their behalf more than ever as we continue to fight for fairer and increased funding, particularly around SEND.

Between April 2021 and the end of March 2022, the Executive Committee met four times. The first three meetings were online, due to Covid, but in March 2022, the Executive met in London for its first in-person meeting in more than two years. We also held an MPs' briefing in the House of Commons in March 2022.

The Finance Managers Research Team (FMRT) met once, and we also met with the DfE funding team, and met individually with our three Vice Chair MPs, Sir Gary Streeter, Layla Moran and Emma Hardy.

f40 also submitted responses to a number of Government consultations around education funding, including on the National Funding Formula, sparsity, and the way the school improvement function is funded.

f40 also wrote letters to Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi, Schools Minister Robin Walker, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson requesting that education be given fairer and increased funding, and to request meetings with them to discuss our concerns.

In January 2022, we also hosted a webinar on education funding for members of f40, which featured a speaker from the DfE funding team and attracted more than 90 attendees.

At the Executive meeting held in March 2022, Chairman Councillor James McInnes stood down from the group as he was no longer Cabinet Member for Education and Children at Devon County Council. The Executive agreed to appoint Councillor Alex Dale, Cabinet Member for Education at Derbyshire County Council, as Chair, and Phil Haslett, Head of Education Strategy and Development at Gloucestershire County Council, was voted in as Deputy Chair, alongside current Deputy Chair Emily Proffitt, who is a primary headteacher in Staffordshire.

f40 has a busy year ahead.

A second MPs' briefing is being held in the House of Commons on July 5, 2022.

A draft response to the SEND Review Green Paper is being prepared, and we will be drafting a response to the National Funding Formula consultation paper in the summer.

We are also writing to Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi for a second time, urging him to look at the fairness of education funding and the need for increased funding, and again inviting him to meet with the f40 team.

f40 has also taken a stand at the National Children and Adult Services conference in Manchester in November this year and has applied to present a workshop to delegates about the need for greater education funding. We will find out in July or August whether our application to present has been successful.

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