

Campaigning for urgent reform and greater funding in education

Summary of activity in 2023

ENGAGING AND INFLUENCING POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

Met with SEND Minister David Johnston to express our concerns about SEND provision and the unfairness of funding

Met with Labour's Education Spokeswoman Bridget Phillipson MP about the crisis in SEND and the unfairness of education funding

Worked with David Davis MP to secure a debate in the House of Commons on the crisis in SEND – 29 MPs spoke during the three-hour debate in January 2024

Contributed to an All-Party Parliamentary Group session on SEND in January 2024

Hosted a well-attended MPs' briefing in the House of Commons for MPs on the crisis in SEND and need for fairer funding

Hosted a webinar for f40 members on our campaign focus

Encouraged MPs to table Parliamentary Questions on education – many did so

Met twice with both the DfE's SEND Change Programme team and funding team

Worked with f40 Conservative Vice Chair Sir Gary Streeter to gain support from MPs for a letter to the Chancellor urging him to invest in SEND in the Autumn Statement

Wrote to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt and Education Secretary Gillian Keegan about the crisis in SEND and need for greater funding, and requesting meetings



High Needs deficit expected to be **£3.6bn** by March 2025

RAISING AWARENESS

Produced briefing papers and graphics explaining f40's concerns around Special Educational Needs and the unfairness of funding, which were shared widely and were referenced by a number of MPs during the House of Commons debate on the SEND crisis.

Secured several pieces of media coverage on the SEND crisis and unfairness of funding in The Guardian, Schools Week, TES, ITV, and in regional media.

f40 Chair Cllr Alex Dale was featured on BBC One's Countryfile during a feature on the unfairness of SEND and school funding and its impact on rural areas.

f40 Conservative Chair Sir Gary Streeter wrote an opinion piece for Schools Week on the SEND crisis, supported by f40.

Contacted a number of the lowest funded local authorities for education across England, inviting them to join the f40 group.



STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

During 2023, f40 continued to strengthen its relationships with other groups working to benefit education. Members, including ASCL, NEU, NAHT and NGA, shared their concerns and worked with f40 to calculate that £4.6bn extra revenue was required each year to meet the current need and demand for SEND support, based on inflation and the increase in EHCPs since 2015.

We also strengthened our partnership-working by meeting with leaders from:

- **Early Years Association**
- **SEND Community Alliance**

Representatives from the Local Government Association, County Council's Network and Early Years Alliance now regularly attend f40 Executive Committee meetings, along with ASCL and NGA.



Campaign plan for 2024

f40 is campaigning for Government to deal with the crisis in SEND by revolutionising education and investing in both mainstream schools and SEND support. We would like to see greater funding, resources, training and guidance to enable mainstream schools to be more inclusive and to provide early intervention.

We would also like SEND support to be given more emphasis in school inspections, and for greater regulation of the independent SEND sector to ensure value for money is being delivered.

SEND funding in mainstream schools, including the notional £6k, should also be reviewed, ensuring it is ringfenced and able to better support inclusion. f40 will continue its campaign for fairer school and SEND funding, lobbying Government to intensify its levelling up programme.

Host an MPs' briefing session in Westminster on the need for urgent reform in education and SEND

Host a webinar for f40 members on the need for urgent reform in education and SEND

Appoint new Liberal Democrat Vice Chair of f40

Look at the possibility of involving parents/schools in the campaign for education reform and investment

Raise awareness in the media of the crisis in SEND and need for educational reform

Invite Shadow Education Spokeswoman Bridget Phillipson MP to meet with f40 on the need for reform

Liaise with each party's policy team on the importance of education in the General Election debate

Invite Education Secretary Gillian Keegan to meet with f40 on the need to revolutionise education

Invite the DfE funding and SEND Change Programme teams to meet with f40

Liaise with key Government departments, inviting them to meet with f40, including Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Ministry of Justice, and HM Treasury

Invite SEND Minister David Johnston to meet with f40

Invite local authorities who are among the lowest funded for education to join f40

Work on new f40 funding briefing papers detailing how much it costs to run a school and how funding should be fairly distributed

Work with the Collaboration Group to bring education into greater focus

Refresh the f40 website

Explore the possibility of hosting an in-person f40 conference in Spring of 2025

For more information

For more information about f40, contact Secretary Karen Westcott at karen@dtw.co.uk or on 07545 210067

