

Councillor Ayfer Orhan
Cabinet Member for Education,
Children's Services and Protection

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors

1st March 2017

Dear Colleagues

FAIR FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS

I know that schools across Enfield are up against it. Schools are facing huge cost pressures and the proposed National Funding Formula for mainstream schools is set to make things even worse for 70% of London's schools.

Here in Enfield if the proposals are implemented as proposed, then Enfield will gain under the NFF with an overall increase of 1.9% (£4.7m) over a two year period from 2018/19. The increase will see a gain for the secondary sector but unfortunately no overall change in funding for the primary sector.

Within the primary sector, the information from the consultation suggests that some funding will shift from smaller primary schools to larger primary schools. This effect appears partly to do with the reduction in the amount of lump sum provided to all schools.

Another aspect of the consultation considers the arrangements for educational services provided by the Council to schools. Following the Government's cessation of the Education Services Grant (in Enfield this amounts to the loss of £3 million from our budgets), the Government has now proposed for some funding to support the statutory functions provided to all schools and academies, but this funding does not reflect the amount required to deliver these services and the Council will now have to face the difficult task of considering how these services can continue to be provided.

Separately, a National Funding Formula is proposed for the High Needs block. Again, information from the consultation stage suggests that Enfield may see an increase in funding. Due to transitional arrangements, unfortunately Enfield will only see an increase of 2.8% (£1.1m) in 2018/19 and nothing is assured beyond this date. In real terms we know that the funding is not going to be sufficient to meet the cost of the acute increase in demand for specialist provision in Enfield and for pupils with SEND, so there is likely to continue to be a funding gap and we have made this quite clear to Government. We must therefore keep up the united pressure to make sure that we continue to share our concerns with the Government. I wanted to write to let you know that Enfield Council understand the pressure facing you and will continue to make our concerns known to the government in the strongest terms. We are working with London Councils to raise the profile of the issue with the Government, MPs and with the media.

I have also been working with the Schools Forum to develop and escalate a lobbying strategy. This strategy involves schools, governors and parents, so that the government is aware of and hopefully recognises the context in Enfield and the needs of our children and young people. We are calling on the government to invest more funding in schools, and in particular to provide an additional £335m per year (1% of the DfE's schools budget) to ensure no school loses funding as a direct result of the implementation of the National Funding Formula.

Enfield Council and London Councils will be providing a full and robust technical response to the consultation on the National Funding Formula which ends on 22 March 2017.

We need to ensure that parents have a voice in this campaign and that they are supported in responding to the consultation effectively by 22 March 2017. Therefore, I also wanted to inform you of a parent-led website which you might want to inform your parents about. It includes guides to responding to the consultation on the National Funding Formula, model letters to MPs and journalists and other resources. You can find out more about their resources at: <http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org/fair-funding-for-all-schools-act-now.html>

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Ayfer Orhan
Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection

IMPORTANT – Enfield residents should register for an online Enfield Connected account. Enfield Connected puts many Council services in one place, speeds up your payments and saves you time – to set up your account today go to www.enfield.gov.uk/connected