March 2023

Campaigning for fair and increased education funding, and bold changes to SEND

Summary of activity in 2022

ENGAGING AND INFLUENCING POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

Wrote to key Government ministers and departments about the need for fairer and greater education funding, and the crisis in SEND, including:

- Education Secretaries x2
- Prime Minister
- Chancellor
- SEND Review Team and DfE
- Requested a meeting with Education Secretary and DfE SEND team

Held a webinar with the DfE for all f40 members to attend

Met with Robin Walker MP (now chair of Education Select Committee)

Held two briefings for MPs in Westminster in May and July to share concerns about funding

Worked alongside f40 Labour Vice Chair Emma Hardy MP to table questions in the House

Responded to three Government education funding consultations:

- SEND Review consultation (July)
- NFF consultation (September)
- Early Years consultation (September)

Members of the f40 Finance Managers Research Team (FMRT), which provides financial expertise around education funding to the Executive Committee and wider f40 group, met to discuss the implications of Government consultations and to advise on f40 responses

Regularly updated all members of f40, including MPs, on our activity, suggesting ways they can support the campaign. Encouraged MPs to talk to their local authority about education funding and to table questions in the House. Encouraged councils to engage their MPs in discussion

Working to secure a debate on SEND in the House of Commons (in progress)

RAISING AWARENESS

Produced a range of materials to demonstrate our concerns around education funding

Attended National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester to talk to delegates about education funding

Wrote to the 15 lowest funded councils for education in England, outside of f40, inviting them to join the group

Wrote an opinion piece for Schools Week on SEND – published in October

Gathering case studies to demonstrate how schools are struggling (in progress)

STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

In raising awareness and lobbying for changes to education funding, f40 works in partnership with a range of stakeholders across the system. During 2022, we strengthened our partnership-working by meeting with and sharing f40 priorities with leaders from:

- Local Government Association
- County Council Network
- Education Policy Institute

Summary of planned activity in 2023

1. Meeting senior members of the DfE SEND team
2. Secure a debate in the House of Commons on SEND – encourage f40 MPs to attend and speak
3. Request meetings with Education Secretary Gillian Keegan and Robin Walker MP, Chair of the Education Select Committee
4. Hold MPs' briefing on SEND and education funding in Westminster in early summer
5. Hold MPs' briefing online later in 2023
6. Invite f40 MPs to table questions in the House
7. Meet with key party spokespeople and political advisors to lobby for education funding and SEND to be included in their election manifestos
8. Possibility of hosting workshops at local government and political conferences
9. Update the f40 briefing paper on how much it costs to run a school
10. Facilitate two surveys – the first of local authorities and the second of schools – to gain evidence and statistics around education funding concerns
11. Invite Cabinet Members and Directors to attend the f40 Executive meetings and to share our concerns with their MPs
12. Invite the lowest funded authorities for education in England to join f40
13. Explore the possibility of hosting an f40 conference in London for members in 2024 – after the General Election
14. Strengthening relationships in the SEND and Early Years sectors

For more information

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