

Fair funding for
education

**Campaigning to halt the
crisis in SEND and achieve
fairer funding**



Councillor Alex Dale

Chair of f40

Cabinet Member for Education
Derbyshire County Council



Welcome

Thank you for joining us today.

We will be presenting the f40 campaign to you during the next 30 minutes and will then respond to any comments and questions. If you wish to ask questions or share your experiences, please use the comments panel at the side of the screen.

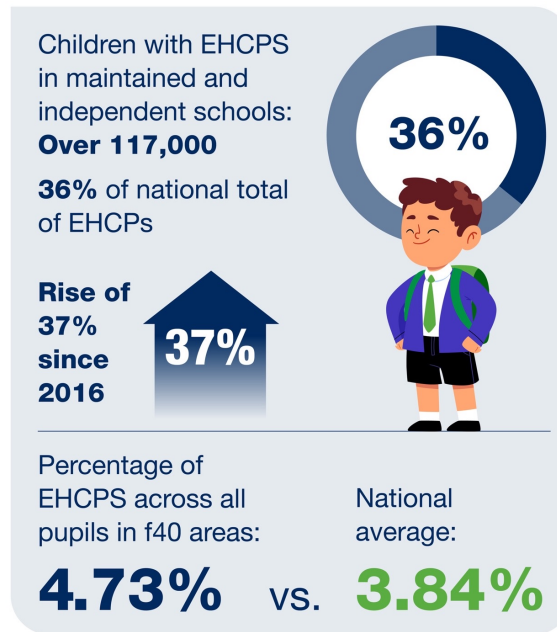
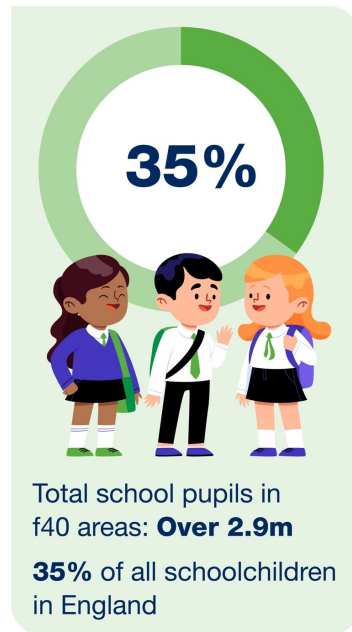
We will also be asking you to respond to three different polls during the webinar. They are simple and should only take a minute or so. One is about your cumulative DSG forecast position and one relates to EHCP numbers.

We will explain them to you when we get to them.



f40 has 42 local authority members

How the f40 figures stack up



* Stats correct as of 2022

Mainstream funding

- Historically, difficult for councils to understand why the education of some children received greater funding than others
- Introduction of the NFF was a positive step, but it.....
 - Still locks in historic inequalities
 - Does not give enough as a basic entitlement
 - Allows too much for “add-ons”
- Government has acknowledged unfairness but levelling up is slow
- f40 priority has always been fair funding
- Now also concerned about the crisis in SEND and quantum of mainstream funding
- Increased funding packages in recent years have been welcome, but still fall short of what is needed in real terms
- Unfairness continues



The deepening SEND crisis

- Nowhere is the issue of quantum more important than in **SEND**
- A clear national crisis
- Insufficient funding and capacity
- Demand and expectation outweigh funding and capacity
- Running the risk of failing our most vulnerable children
- We need bold action and significant funding now



Significant extra baseline funding needed



f40

and other educational organisations believe

£4.6bn

SEND funding is required

- Based on demand and inflation since 2015
- Does not allow for further increased demand and inflation beyond 2023

SEND deficits continue to rise

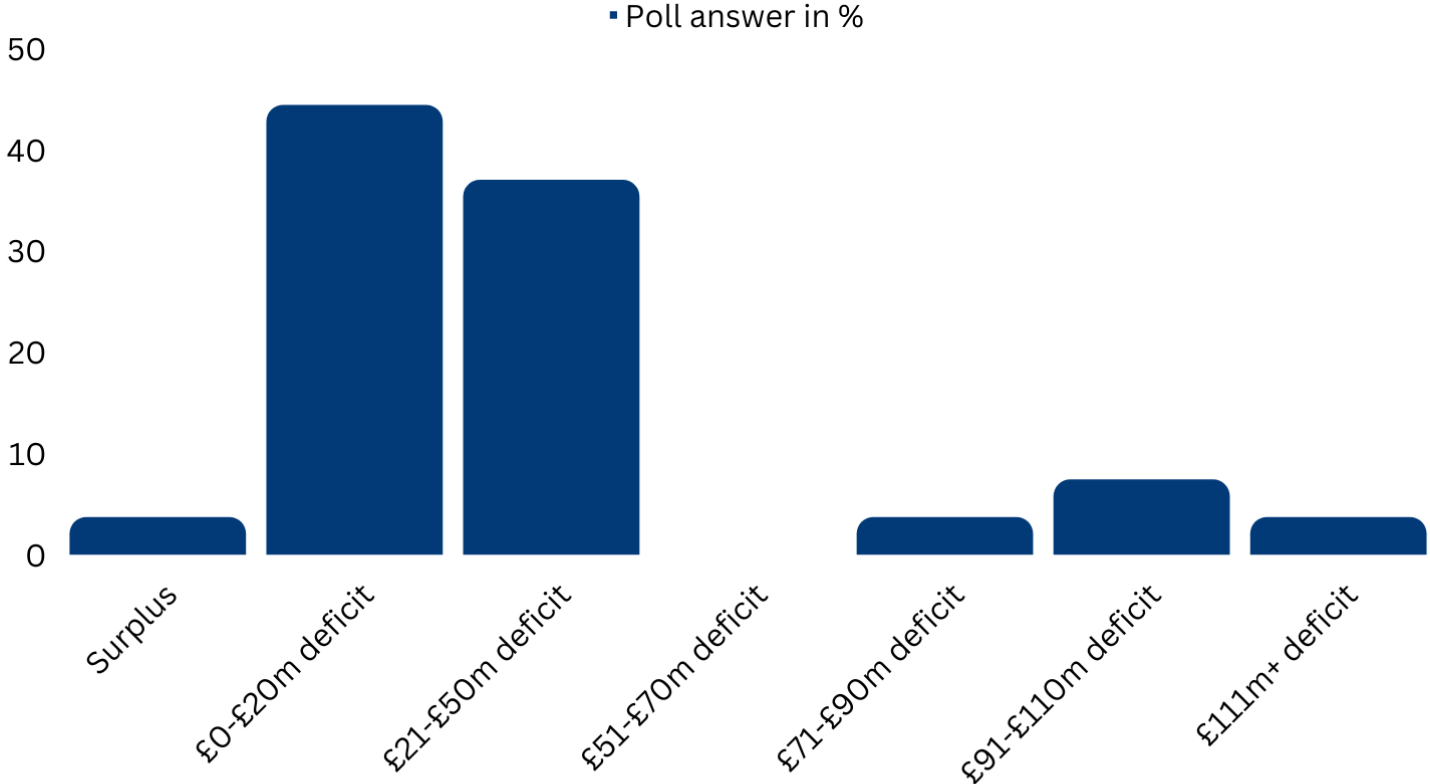


High Needs deficit
expected to be
£2.5bn
by March 2025

- Some authorities up to £100m deficit.
- Do you know what your LA deficits are?

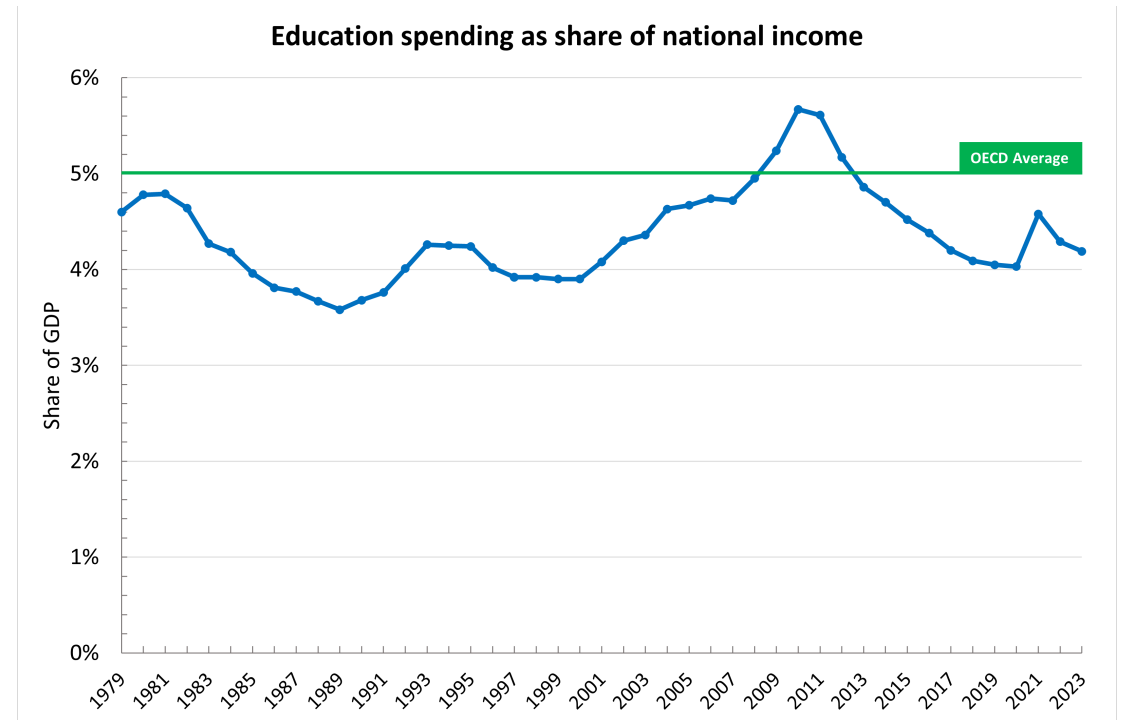
Poll 1 – the results

What is your cumulative DSG position forecast for March 2024?



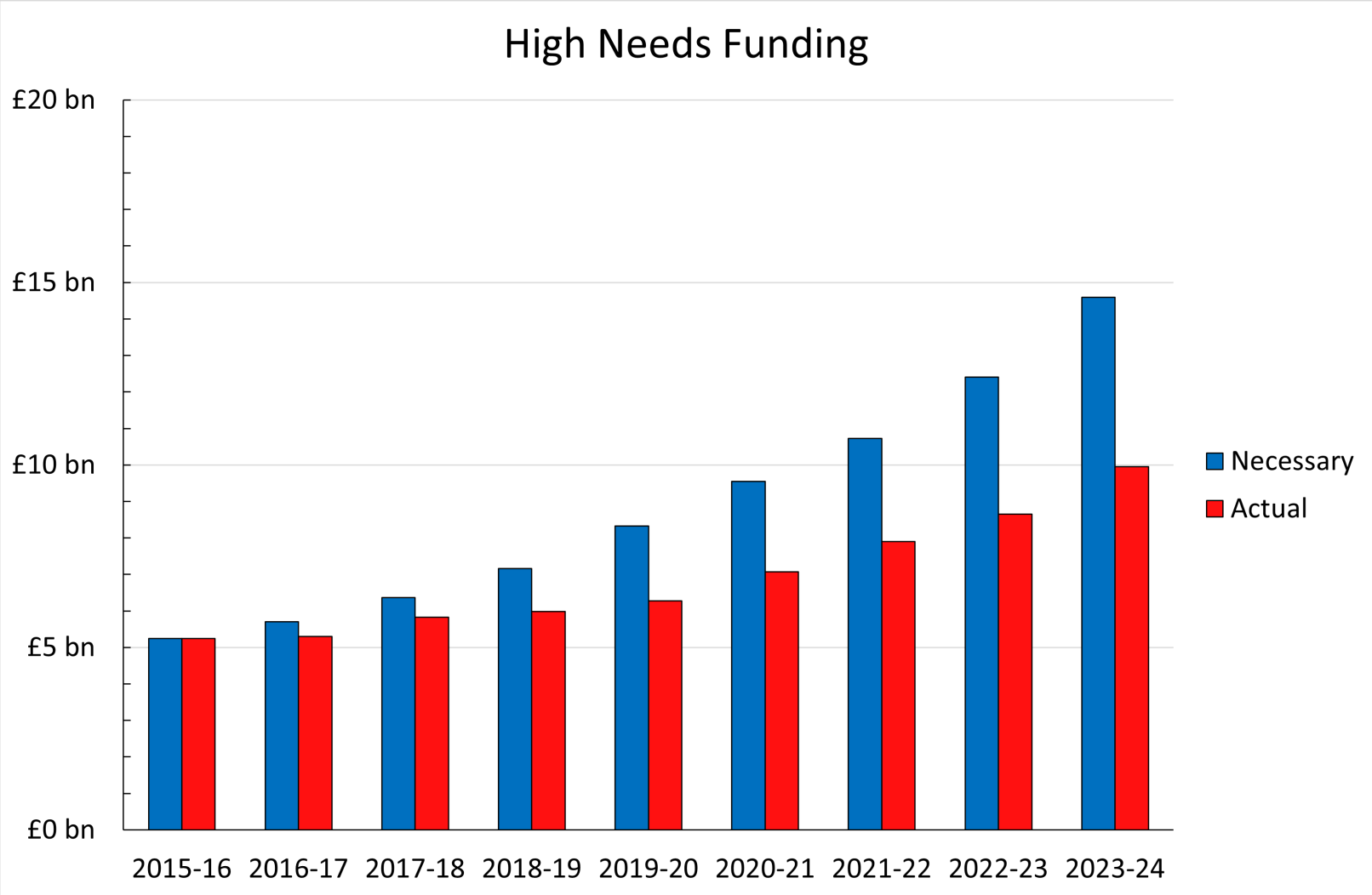
SEND is under-resourced

- £4.6bn added to baseline = 0.2% of national income
- England behind competitor nations on education funding
- For 2023-24, we spend 4.2% of our national income on education
- Average OECD is 5%
- Levelling up is on the national agenda
- Recovering from global pandemic
- Counter-productive to poorly resource SEND

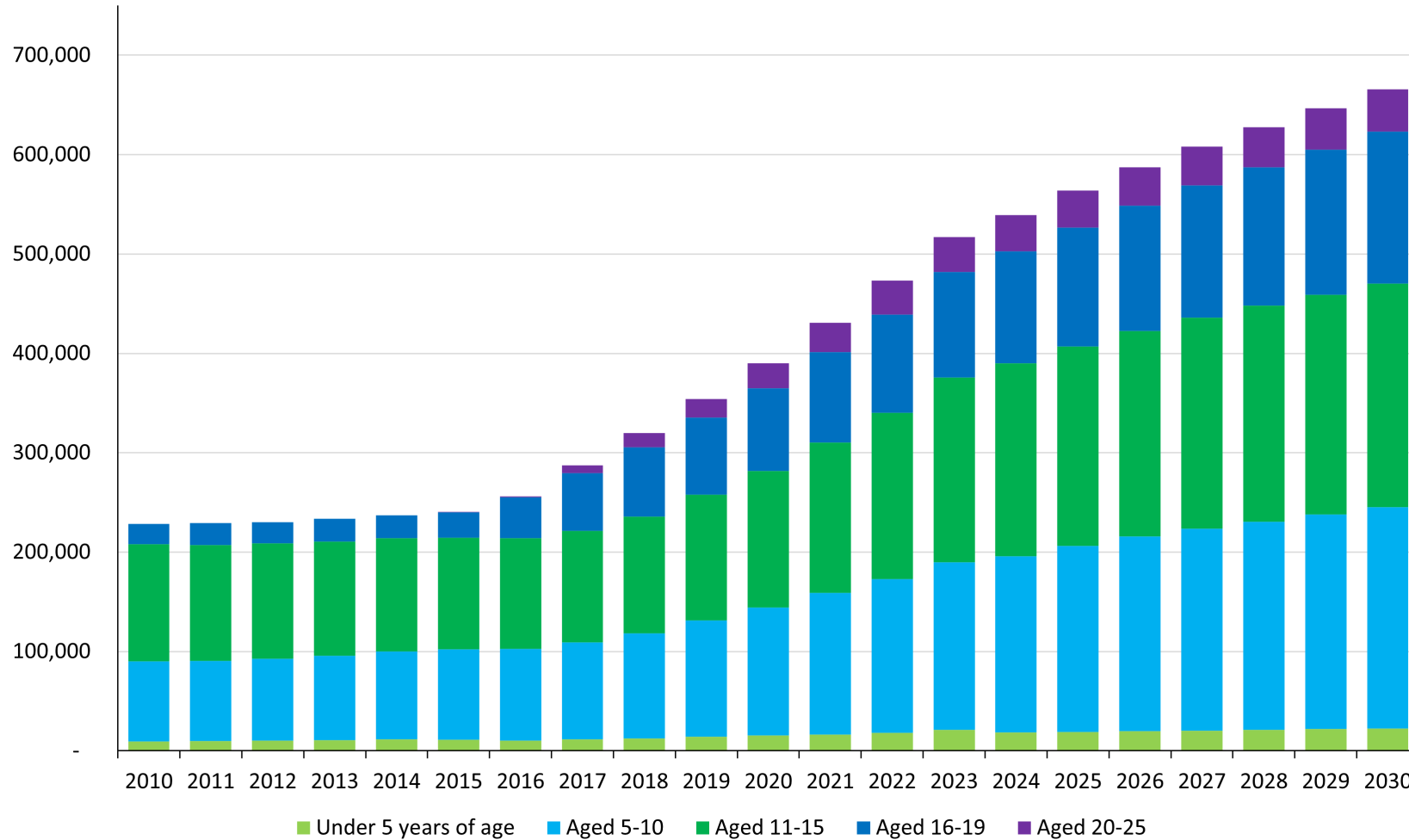


High Needs funding – actual v necessary

Graph supplied by NEU



Education, Health and Care plans projection



Growth in EHCPs is expected to continue

Graph supplied by NEU

SEND in mainstream

- Rise in SEND-need also impacting on mainstream education
- Reduction in real terms mainstream funding for many schools
- Current support in mainstream is insufficient to meet pupil-needs
- Schools having to provide raft of extra support due to reductions in other areas, mental health, youth services, speech & language
- Mainstream schools need more funding to be inclusive
- SEND training required for every teacher
- Without funding / improved support, pupils will continue to leave mainstream for specialist provision

Capital funding

- Insufficient locally-provided SEND places
- Results in children being placed in expensive independent provision
- Too many local authorities not successful in latest funding bids
- Substantial extra capital funding required
- Distribution should be fair
- Capital funding should be available flexibly and quickly
- Free School programme should be more responsive to need for places
- Under investment has led to backlog in repairs and improvements in all schools

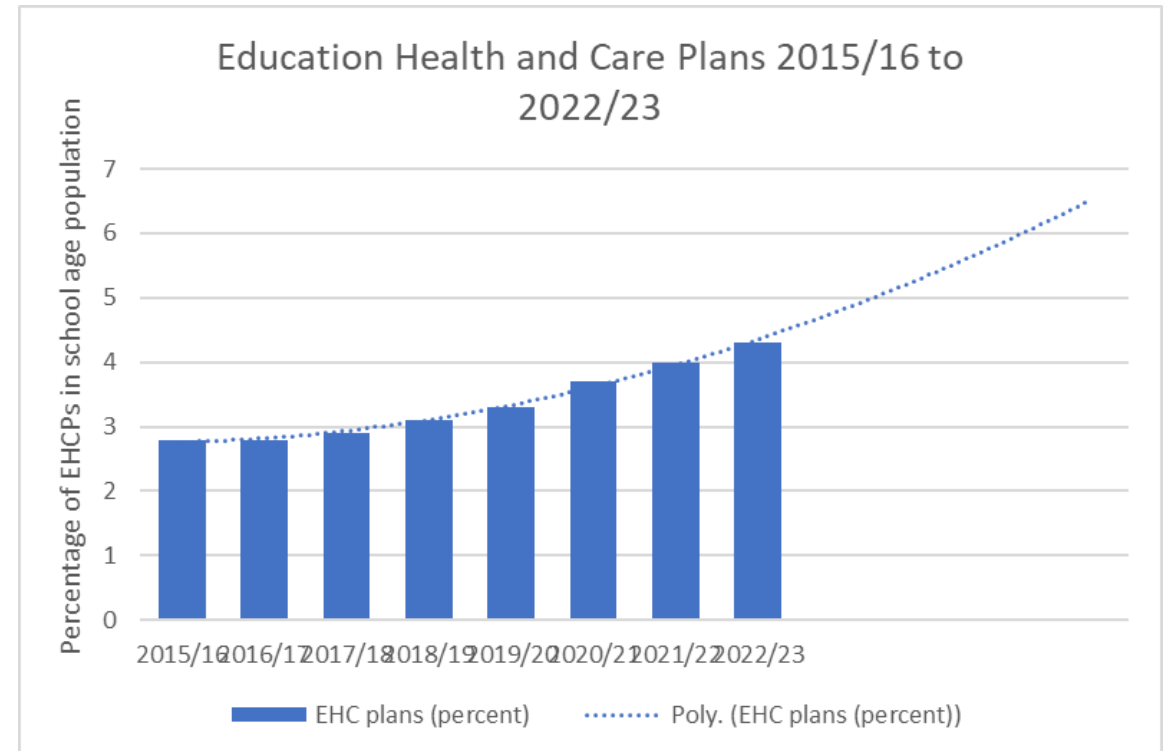
Margaret Judd
SEND Funding Manager
Dorset Council



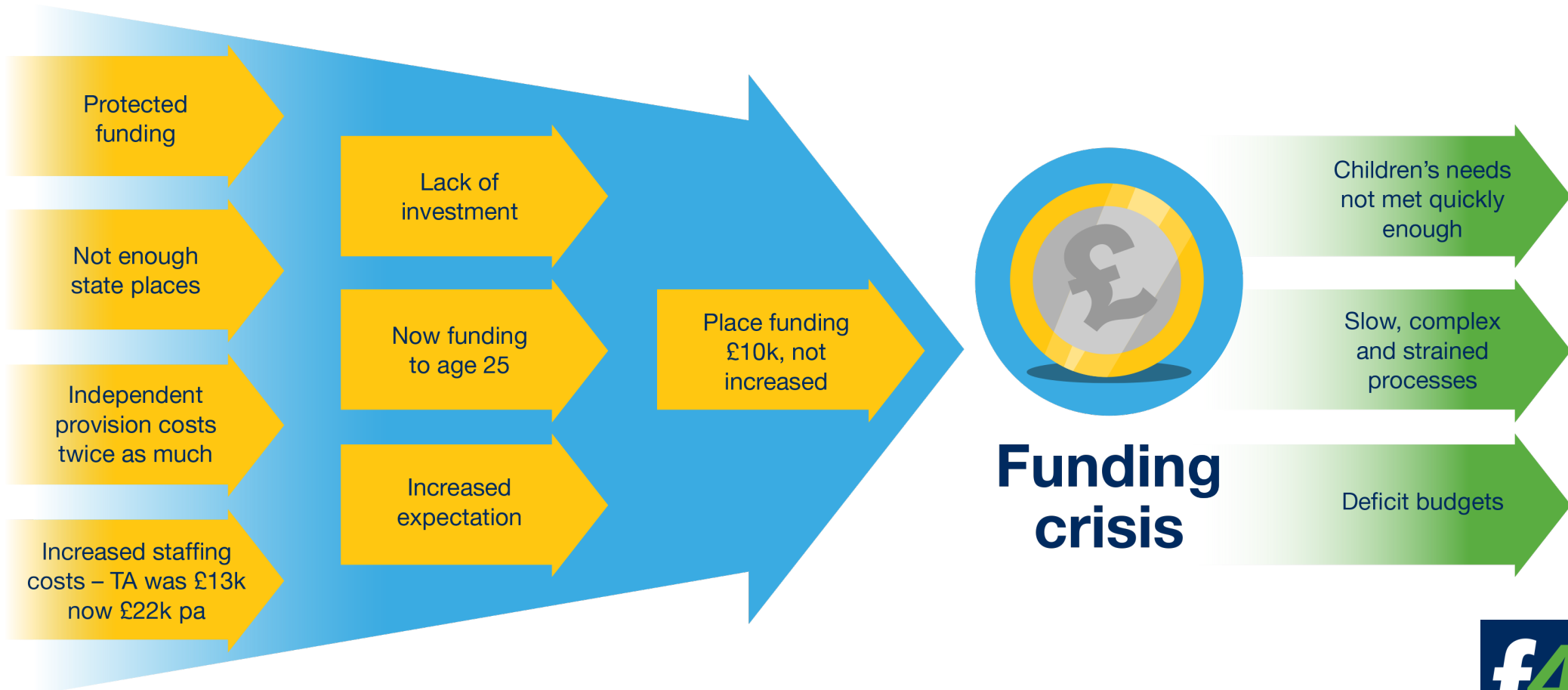
SEND: The perfect storm



2022-2023 – 389,171 EHCPs = 4.3% of school-age children.
This figure could reach over 6% in four years.



Funding crisis



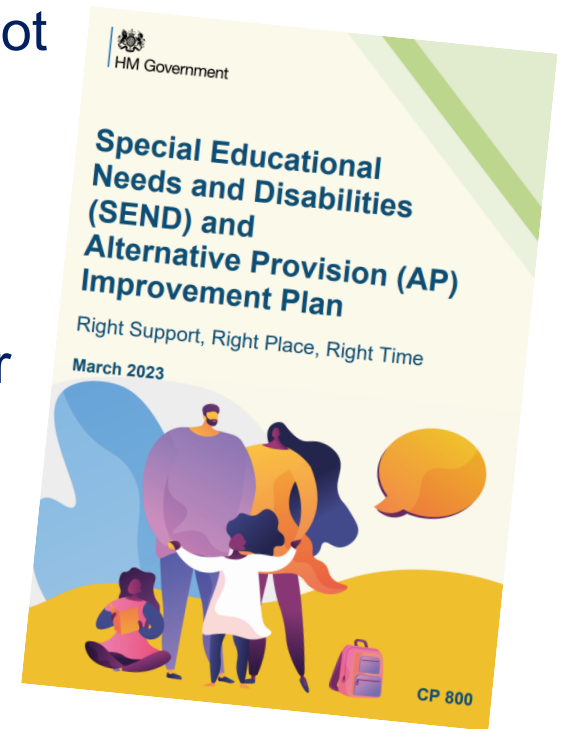
The crisis will only get worse

- The challenge is under-estimated
- DfE intervention and support programmes to reduce deficits:
 - The Safety Valve Programme (34 LAs) and Delivering Better Value in SEND programme (55 LAs) = 58% of LAs
- Local authorities and education providers largely doing the right things – small, further savings can be made
- Future growth and inflation likely to negate any positive impact
- Deficits will only get worse

More urgency required

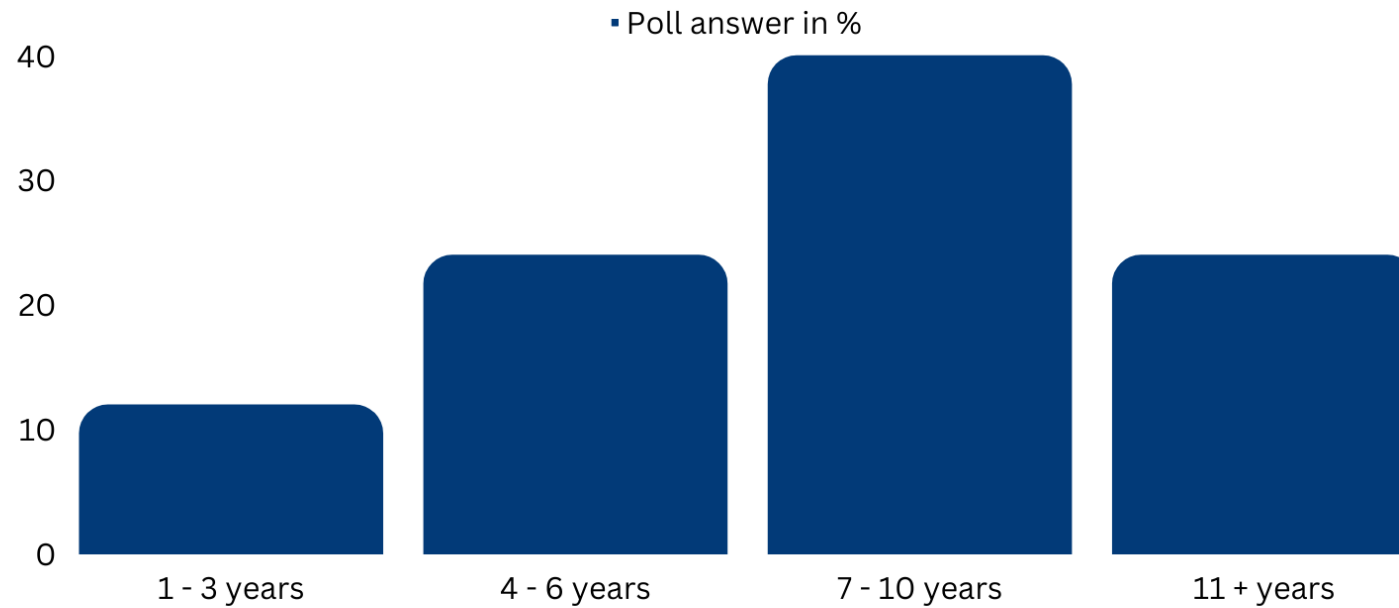
- Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan not radical or quick enough
- Some very good suggestions – inclusion, benchmarking, standards
- But Change Programme will take several years to be piloted and for any recommendations to be implemented
- No mention of extra resources and funding
- Lack of professionals in employment market to meet current need
- The plan cannot happen without extra funding and resources

RIGHT FUNDING + RIGHT PEOPLE = RIGHT OUTOMES



Poll 2 – the results

When do you expect EHCP numbers to plateau?



Phil Haslett

Head of Education Strategy and Development
Gloucestershire County Council



Why are some children worth more than others?



- Some schools receive more than £4,000 **less** DSG funding per pupil than other schools

The illustration shows a young girl with dark hair and a blue shirt sitting at a yellow desk, reading a green book. There is a pencil and a notebook on the desk.

**15-20
YEARS**

to level up at
current pace

- At the current pace, it will take between 15 and 20 years to level up funding – that is more than a generation of children

Did you know?

Did you know that schools in the **highest funded** local authority area have a funding unit **almost 50% more** than the lowest for primary schools and **over 50%** for secondary schools?

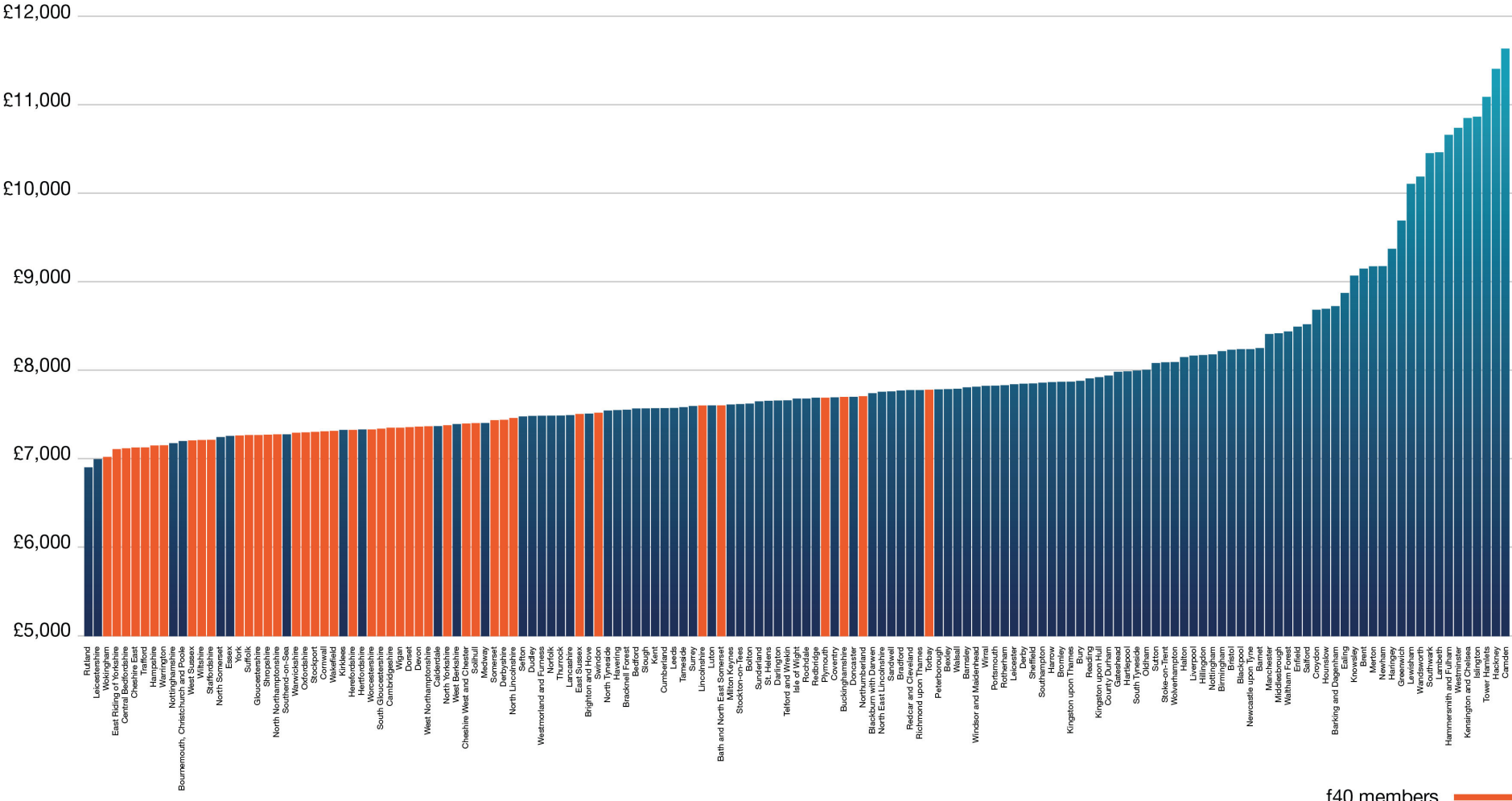
Primary schools



Secondary schools



The unfairness is clear



Variation of Gross DSG funding allocation per mainstream pupil by local authority (December 2022)

f40 members

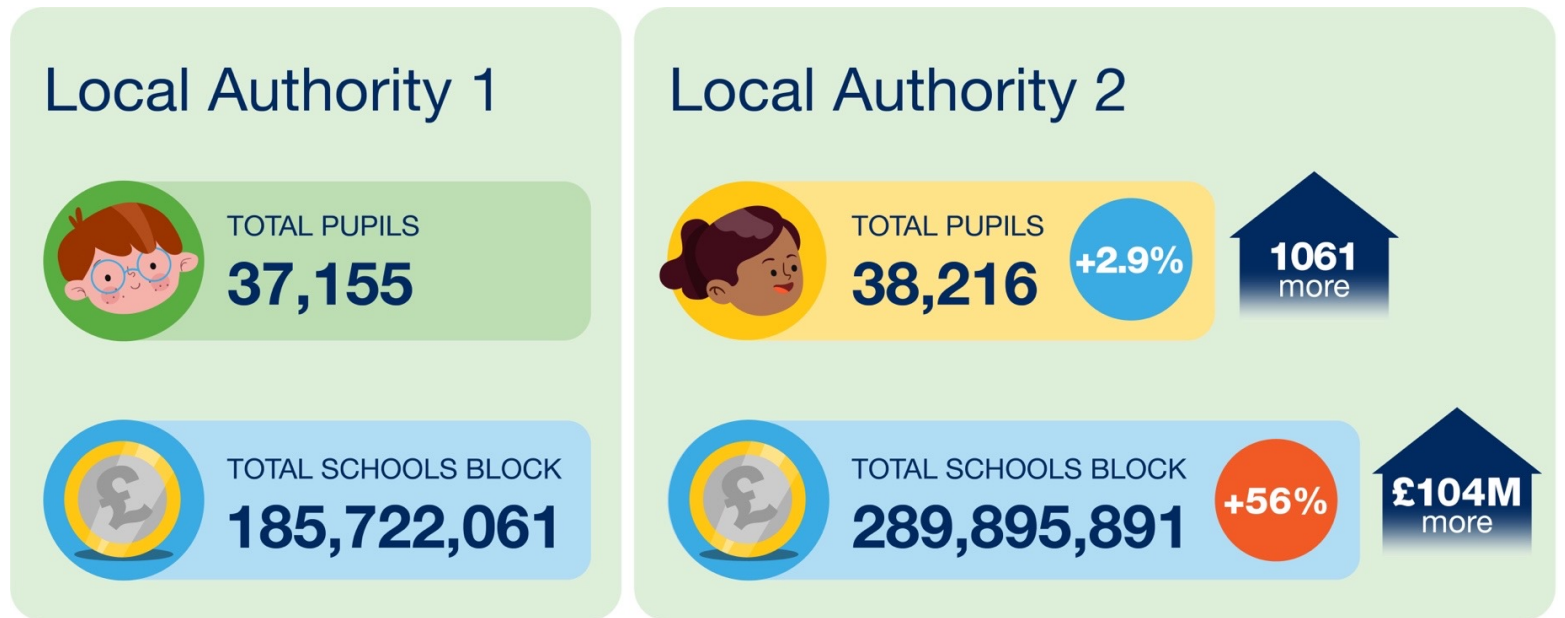


Wide variation

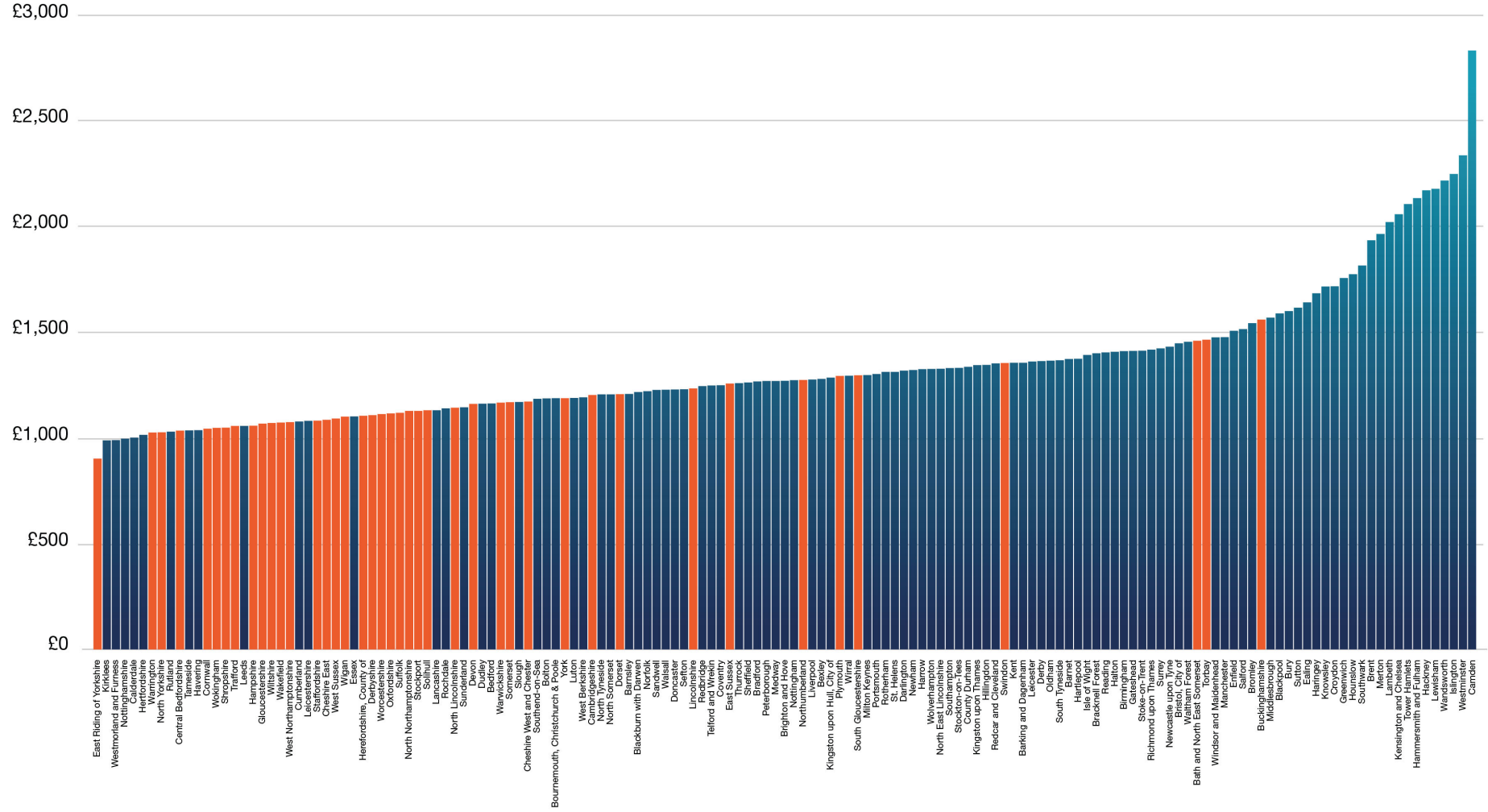
We agree there will always be a variation in funding for some areas, but it is the size of the variation that is wrong. Poorer funded areas should be lifted up.

For example, two local authorities of similar size – yet one gets **£104m more for its pupils** than the other.

* Stats correct as of 2022



Unfairness in SEND funding



Variation of High Needs Block funding per pupil allocations 2023-24 by local authority

f40 members 



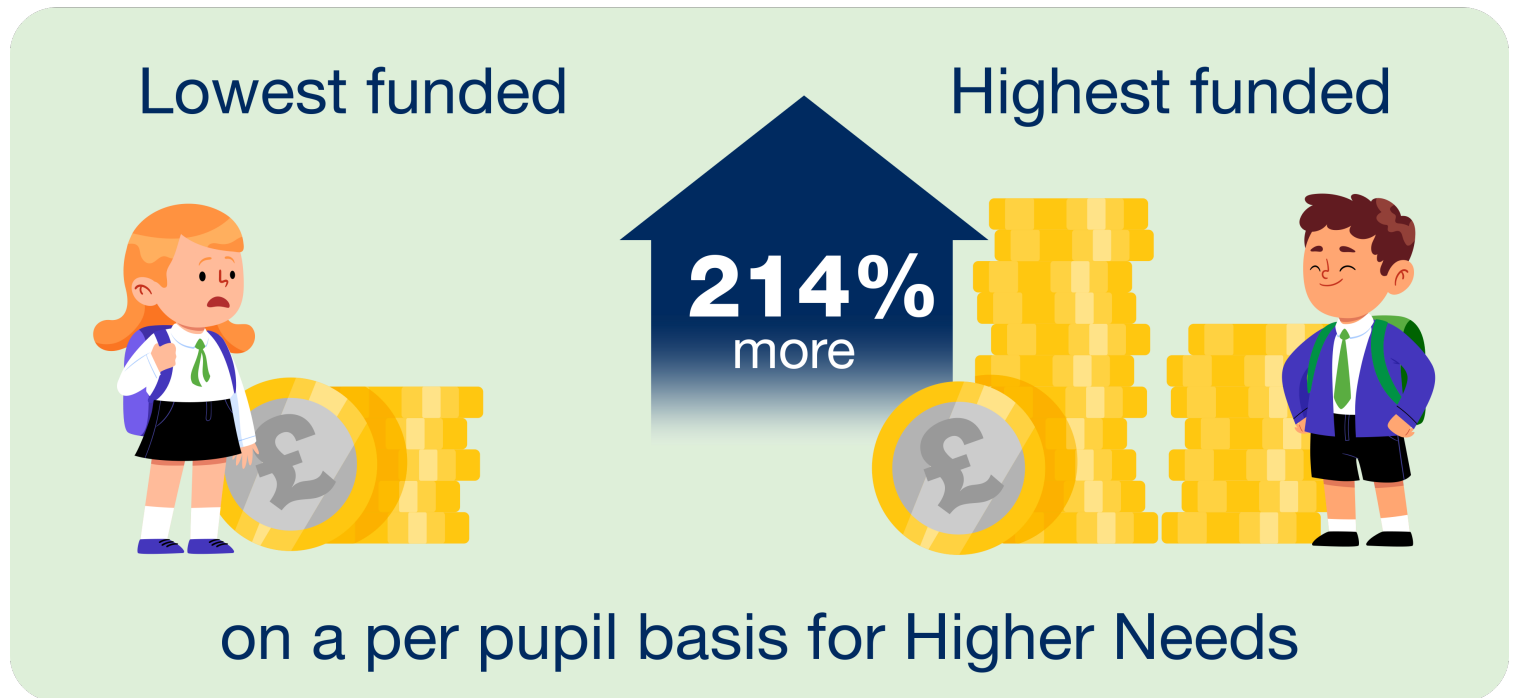
Did you know?

Did you know that **for High Needs, the highest funded area receives 3x** the lowest funded area on a per pupil basis?

Lowest = £901

Highest = £2,827

* Statistics correct as of 2023



An example of unfairness in neighbouring authorities

Local Authority 1



HIGH NEEDS
BLOCK FUNDING
£93m



TOTAL PUPILS
99,032



TOTAL SEND PUPILS
17,365

Local Authority 2



HIGH NEEDS
BLOCK FUNDING
£124m

+33%

£31M
more



TOTAL PUPILS
96,964

-2.1%



TOTAL SEND PUPILS
14,069

-18.9%

2,068
less

What progress is being made?

- Government has acknowledged unfairness of mainstream funding but levelling up is too slow
- Increased funding packages in recent years have been very welcome, but still fall short of what is needed in real terms
- Introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) was a positive step, but it.....
 - Still locks in historic protections for both mainstream and SEND funding
 - Does not give enough as a basic entitlement
 - Allows too much for “add-ons”.
- No recognition of the unfairness in High Needs funding



In conclusion.....

1. Mainstream school funding remains under significant pressure.
 - Future funding packages need to ensure that they, at least, meet inflationary pressures so that we don't slip back into real-term cuts
 - The NFF is not yet doing its job. We need a more direct route to fair funding
 - The NFF should meet need without the requirement for protections
 - If we don't fund mainstream appropriately, further pressure will be placed on High Needs budgets
2. Revenue and Capital funding to support High Needs need to increase significantly.



In one word, tell us your biggest SEND concern..... what our members said



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How are we campaigning?

- MPs' briefing in Westminster on September 12 on the SEND crisis and fairness
- Letter to the Chancellor and Prime Minister, signed by MPs, asking for substantial extra SEND funding in Autumn Statement
- Meeting with Minister for SEND David Johnston MP
- Meeting with DfE SEND funding team
- Meeting with Shadow Education Spokeswoman Bridget Phillipson MP
- Requesting debate on SEND in House of Commons or Westminster Hall
- Collaborating with ASCL, NEU, NAHT, NGA, EYA on SEND funding / education
- Lobbying for education to be key priority in General Election manifestoes



How you can help

- Urge your MP to attend the f40 briefing in Westminster on September 12
- Encourage your MP to sign the letter to the Chancellor and PM
- Ask your MP to table questions in the House of Commons around SEND provision
- Provide a short briefing paper, with key stats, to your MP informing of the SEND crisis in their local area (cumulative DSG forecast, EHCP numbers, transport costs, need for extra places / provision)
- Invite your MP to meet with you so you can share local concerns
- Invite your MP to visit local schools to discuss the SEND crisis



Any questions?

If you require more information,
contact Karen Westcott, Secretary of
f40 on email at karen@dtw.co.uk

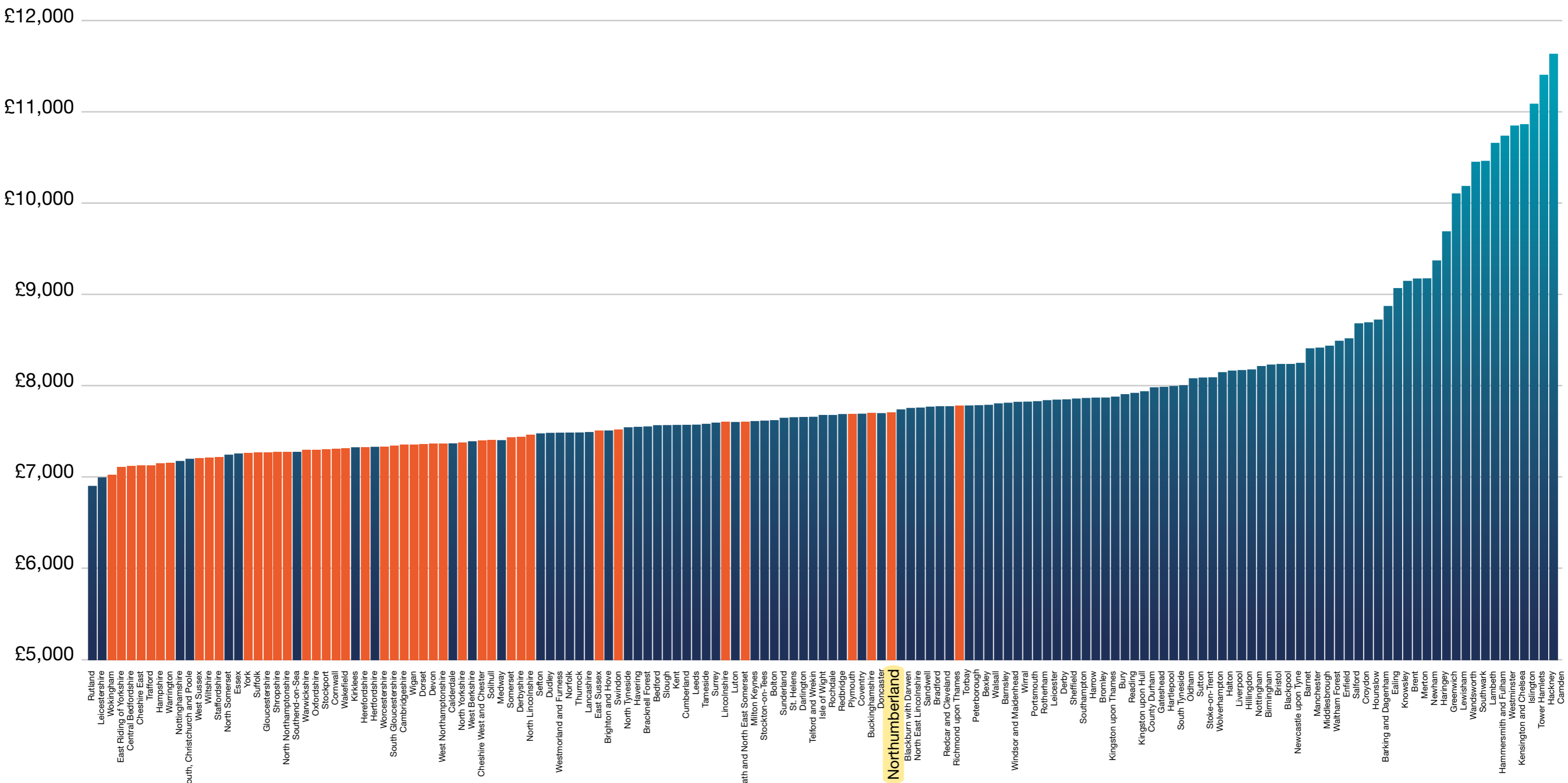


Thank you



Variation of Gross DSG funding allocation per mainstream pupil by local authority (December 2022)

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Variation of High Needs Block funding per pupil allocations 2023-24 by local authority

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