

Notes of the Forum Working Group meeting on 28th November 2014

Present:- Lisa Murphy, Alistair Day, Scott Preston, Philip Hodgson and Martin Wade.

The group discussed:-

- Cambridgeshire's funding now at 136th improved from 151st but still far below the the national average despite the approximately 7% uplift from April 2015 for maintained schools and from September for Academies. Martin has very helpfully prepared a spreadsheet which shows that there are now 10 members of F40 below Cambridgeshire but only 2 of our ten statistical neighbours are below us.
- The unprecedented growth in the county which puts very significant pressure on education services and both revenue and capital funding.
- Both the number of children with SEND and the number of children with complex needs are increasing faster than would be expected from growth in population.

After much discussion with examples from the schools of those present it was agreed that our campaign should continue with focus on growth which is the greatest of our current concerns.

It was agreed to seek a visit by the Secretary of State for Education and requesting one of the Cambridgeshire MPs to arrange this. Scott Preston is currently contacting Jonathan Djanogly MP with a view to arranging this.

In addition it is agreed that a briefing session be arranged for prospective candidates for the general election. This would have two objectives, the first to inform them of the funding position and the consequences for the education of Cambridgeshire children and also to seek their views on the priority of education in their political campaigning. It is envisaged that this might best be arranged for late February / early March

I should like minuted the group's gratitude to Martin for his support and willingness to provide the data for our discussions.