



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016-0195, 31 October 2016

Funding of West Sussex schools

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Summary

There will be a Westminster Hall debate on the funding of West Sussex schools on Wednesday 2 November from 9.30 to 11.00am. Sir Nicholas Soames will lead the debate. This briefing provides some background information and recent press and parliamentary coverage.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

1.1 School funding – the national context

The average amount of per pupil school funding individual local authorities in England receive each year varies. This funding is then passed through a local formula before being given to individual schools. This means that there are differences in the amount of per pupil funding received by individual schools.

Critics argue that these disparities are unfair, and that funding should be based explicitly on current area, school and pupil characteristics, rather than on historical spending.

In 2015-16 some local authorities were provided with some additional 'fairer schools funding'. For West Sussex, this totalled just under £1 million. This fairer schools funding was rolled forward for 2016-17.

On 7 March 2016, then- Education Secretary Nicky Morgan announced the first of two consultations on the introduction of a new national funding formula. The precise nature of the formula will be the subject of a further consultation expected later in 2016. It is difficult to say how particular areas will be affected until the second phase consultation is released.

The new national funding formula is now scheduled for phased introduction from 2018, one year later than originally intended. Some areas that consider themselves low funded – including West Sussex – have raised concerns about this delay, arguing that their schools will struggle to meet costs in the meantime.

1.2 School funding in West Sussex

The base per-pupil funding in West Sussex local authority's 'schools block' in 2016-17 was £4,198. This is the third lowest per-pupil schools block amount of all local authorities in England. Further statistics on school funding in West Sussex are provided in Annex A.

The average per-pupil amount of funding in the schools block, for England in 2016-17 was £4,636; many London local authorities have funding higher than this. For Tower Hamlets, for example, the figure was £6,982.

These figures relate to the schools block of the local authority's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation only. There are other blocks in the DSG, and other sources of school funding (e.g., the Pupil Premium) which are not included in this.

A campaign group, [WorthLess?](#), has been set up to raise awareness of what they say is sustained underfunding of education in West Sussex. A [petition](#) on the issue on the parliament.uk website has to date attracted around 15,000 signatures. In its response, the Government said it recognised that West Sussex was a relatively low-funded local authority.

It remained committed to the introduction of a national funding formula from 2018-19 and would consult further on this in the autumn of 2016.¹

Head teachers in West Sussex wrote to parents in early October 2016 to say they were considering a range of measures to mitigate funding shortfalls, including moving to a shortened four-day week.²

On 18 October 2016 a group of head teachers delivered a petition to Prime Minister Theresa May on the issue. Press reports said the letter included a request for £20 million in transitional funding.³

¹ [Petition 167761, Government response.](#)

² See '[Heads warn budget cuts could mean schools going down to a four-day week](#)' in *TES*, 2 October 2016.

³ See: '["We're not worth less", schools tell Prime Minister](#)', in the West Sussex County Times, 23 October 2016.

2. Press articles

West Sussex County Times, 18 October 2016

[MPs appeal to schools minister for fairer funding](#)

West Sussex MPs have met with the Minister for Schools to ask for extra money for the county's cash-strapped schools.

The Guardian, 3 October 2016

[Cash-strapped schools consider introducing four-day week](#)

Schools in West Sussex are considering 'modifying school hours' as a last-ditch attempt to cut costs

West Sussex County Times, 29 September 2016

["Our schools cannot absorb more pressure"](#)

West Sussex schools may have to consider not opening five days a week if the government fails to address the ongoing education funding crisis, headteachers have warned.

ITV News, 21 September 2016

[Council leader warns of funding cuts and policy changes](#)

The Leader of West Sussex County Council has warned of a 'perfect storm' of funding pressures and policy changes which will have a damaging effect on local schools and children's learning.

Mid Sussex Times, 19 April 2016

[Schools will not get extra money to tackle shortfall](#)

West Sussex schools will not be given any extra money to help them make ends meet.

The Guardian, March 28 2016

[Rural schools could double staffing levels under new funding formula](#)

School bosses warn that while revised funding will benefit rural areas, previously well-off London and city schools could now suffer as tables turn

Mid Sussex Times, 10 February 2016

[Headteachers make "formidable" case for extra school funding](#)

The government's education minister has agreed to consider a request from West Sussex schools for extra funding.

Mid Sussex Times, 9 December 2015

[Heads call on MPs to support education funding campaign](#)

Headteachers have asked West Sussex MPs to support their campaign for fairer school funding.

3. Campaign and petition

3.1 Campaign

[WorthLess? West Sussex Schools Campaign for Fairer Funding](#)

West Sussex County Council

[West Sussex Leader backs £200 for £20million campaign](#)

West Sussex County Council's Leader has given her backing to Worth Less' £200 for £20million campaign.

27 January 2016

West Sussex County Council Leader Louise Goldsmith has given her backing to a campaign to boost funding for local schools by £20million.

The Worth Less? campaign is urging the Department for Education (DfE) to provide the relief funding while a review of the current school funding formula is carried out.

Louise Goldsmith today signalled her support for the campaign which she said was vital to ensure local children got the best start in life and to help close the skills gap which is holding back the West Sussex economy.

Currently West Sussex schools receive £41million less than the national average. However, with school budgets at breaking point, Worth Less? is calling on the DfE to provide an extra £20 million to support West Sussex school children until the new system is introduced in 2017.

To date the Government has offered just £930,000 in transitional funding, the equivalent of less than £10 per pupil. Providing each child with an extra £200 would give the county a £20m boost.

Louise said: "West Sussex MPs have made a strong case for the county's school children and the Government has accepted the current national funding system is unfair and ordered a review. We look forward to seeing the details of the consultation. However it cannot be right that while that review process is continuing our children continue to be so significantly short changed.

"If West Sussex schools were funded to the national average, they would have an extra £41million to spend on educating our children. That is the equivalent of 1,518 more teachers. Worth Less? is asking for just half of that and I would urge the DfE to support schools with this fair short-term solution while a long-term solution is sought.

"Business leaders tell us all the time that they would love to recruit home grown talent but with a skills gap opening up in West Sussex, they have to look further afield. Fair funding would ensure West Sussex schools could play a full part in helping us to close that skills gap and

ensure our children can take up the high skilled jobs our economy needs.”

The additional funding would come from underspends in the DfE budget, which in the last two full financial years have stood at around £350million. It would not leave pupils in more disadvantaged areas worse off.

Jules White, head teacher at Tanbridge House School in Horsham and Worth Less? spokesman, said: “We welcome the support of the leader of West Sussex County Council for our call for an extra £20 million in relief funding.

“The dedication of West Sussex teachers and the hard work of the county’s pupils should not be an excuse for the Government not to do what is right.

“The Government needs local economies to continue to grow but chronic under-investment in West Sussex’s future will harm not just our children’s life chances but the wider national economy too.”

3.2 Petition

[All West Sussex Schools to receive pupil funding at the national average.](#)

Currently West Sussex Schools receive one of the lowest levels of pupil funding in the country. The situation has got so bad that it is having an impact on the standard of the education provided. West Sussex would like fairer funding for its schools.

[Sign this petition](#)

15,401 signatures (*at time of publishing*)

[Show on a map](#)

Government responded

We are firmly committed to introducing fairer funding through the national funding formula, so schools are funded on a fair and transparent basis, according to actual measures of need.

We have protected the core schools budget in real terms over the current spending review period. This year, the core schools budget will be over £40 billion – the highest on record.

We are aware that under the current funding system education spending is not distributed fairly and consistently. That is why we are committed to introducing fairer funding for schools so that funding is transparently matched to schools’ and children’s needs. In doing so, we will fund the education system in a way that promotes social mobility and social justice.

Earlier this year we conducted the first stage of consultation on our proposals for making the funding system fairer by introducing the National Funding Formulae (NFF) for schools and high needs. We initially proposed to introduce the NFF from 2017-18.

In July the Secretary of State announced that the NFF will be introduced in 2018-19 instead, to allow time for full and proper consultation on these important proposals. It also allowed us to give certainty to local authorities about their budgets in 2017-18.

We recognise West Sussex is a relatively low-funded local authority. In 2015-16 we took a step towards fairer funding by allocating an additional £390 million to low funded authorities through the “minimum funding levels” reform. West Sussex received an additional £930,000 from this reform. The extra funding for West Sussex was included in their baseline in 2016-17, and is protected in their baseline for 2017-18.

We also recognise that many schools are facing cost pressures and that they have worked to find efficiencies. A national funding formula will give headteachers more certainty about their funding over the longer term so that they can better manage their budgets. We are also providing support to help schools improve their financial health, including a range of information, guidance and tools available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/schools-financial-health-and-efficiency>.

In the next stage of consultation, we will set out our plans for how the formula will be implemented including the impact on schools and local authorities. This stage will also confirm the factors that we will use in the formulae, and we will invite responses to the weightings we propose to give them.

We will release the response to the first consultation, and launch a full second consultation on the NFF later in the autumn.

Department for Education

At 100,000 signatures, this petition will be considered for debate in Parliament

Deadline 28 March 2017

All petitions run for 6 months

4. Parliamentary statement and questions

4.1 Written statement

[Schools Funding](#)

Made by: [Justine Greening](#) (The Secretary of State for Education)

The Government is firmly committed to introducing fairer funding for schools, high needs and early years. This is an important reform, which will fairly and transparently allocate funding on the basis of schools' and children's actual needs, rather than simply on historic levels of funding tied to out of date local information. Along with the record levels of funding for schools announced at the spending review, and our commitment to the pupil premium for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, a fairer funding system will set a common foundation that will enable schools – no longer held back by a funding system that is arbitrary, out of date and unfair – to maximise the potential of every child. It will provide a crucial underpinning for the education system to act as a motor for social mobility and social justice.

The first stage consultations on national funding formulae for schools and high needs, which were published in March, have been met with an overwhelmingly positive response from headteachers, teachers, governors and parents.

There is also a strong sense in the response to the first stage of the consultation that this is a once in a generation opportunity for an historic change and that we must get our approach right. I will therefore publish the government's full response to the first stage of the schools and high needs consultations and set out my proposals for the second stage once Parliament returns in the autumn. We will run a full consultation, and make final decisions early in the new year. Given the importance of consulting widely and fully with the sector and getting implementation right, the new system will apply from 2018-19. I will set out our full plans for a national funding formula for early years shortly.

In the meantime, I understand the need for local authorities to have sufficient information to begin to plan their schools and high needs funding arrangements for 2017 to 2018. Many of those who responded to the first stage national funding formula consultations emphasised that schools and local authorities need stability, and where there are changes need early notice, as well as a fair system.

In that context, I am confirming that in 2017-18 no local authority will see a reduction from their 2016-17 funding (adjusted to reflect authorities' most recent spending patterns) on the schools block of the dedicated schools grant (per pupil funding) or the high needs block (cash amount). As usual, we will apply an uplift for high needs later in the year. I am also publishing today detailed funding tables so that authorities can see exactly how this funding has been calculated.

Final allocations for schools and high needs blocks will follow in December on the basis of pupil numbers recorded in the October census.

I am setting this out now so that local authorities can begin the process of setting the budgets of schools in their area and that this can be concluded in time for the start of the coming financial year.

I am also confirming that, for 2017-18, we will retain the current minimum funding guarantee for schools, so that no school can face a funding reduction of more than 1.5% per pupil next year in what it receives through the local authority funding formula. To ensure that local authorities can start planning their budgets for next year with certainty, I do not intend to proceed, for 2017-18, with proposals to create a new central schools block, allow local flexibility on the minimum funding guarantee or to ring-fence the schools block within the dedicated schools grant. These will be covered, for 2018-19 and beyond, in my response to the first stage consultation in the autumn.

I will shortly publish the Education Funding Agency's operational guide to schools funding in 2017-18, and send the draft Authority Proforma Tool to authorities.

21 Jul 2016 | Written statements | HCWS98

4.2 Urgent question

[School Funding](#)

21 Jul 2016 | 613 cc968-976

[Neil Carmichael \(Stroud\) \(Con\)](#)

(Urgent Question): To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will make a statement on school funding.

[The Secretary of State for Education \(Justine Greening\)](#)

I am firmly committed to introducing fairer funding for schools, high needs and early years. This is an important reform, to fairly and transparently allocate funding on the basis of schools' and children's actual needs.

As the written statement I have laid today sets out, this Government are investing record levels of funding for schools. With that investment, fairer funding will set a common foundation that will enable schools to maximise the potential of every child. They will no longer be held back by a funding system that is now arbitrary, out of date and unfair. Fairer funding will provide a crucial underpinning for the education system to act as a motor for social mobility and social justice.

The first stage consultations on national funding formulae for schools and high needs have been met with an overwhelmingly positive response from headteachers, teachers, governors and parents. I am also clear that this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for a historic change and therefore we must make sure we take the time to get the final approach right. I will therefore publish the Government's full

response to the first stage of the schools and high needs consultations, and set out my proposals for the second stage, once Parliament returns in the autumn. We will run a full consultation, and make final decisions early in the new year. Given the importance of consulting widely and fully with the sector and getting implementation right, the new system will apply from 2018-19. I will set out our full plans for a national funding formula for early years shortly.

I do understand that local authorities need sufficient information to begin planning their funding arrangements for 2017 to 2018. Local authorities need time to consult with local schools—both academies and maintained—to ensure that the funding they provide is being directed appropriately. As well as a fair system, schools and local authorities need stability and early notice of any changes in order to fulfil this important duty properly.

I have therefore confirmed today in my written statement that no local authority will see a reduction from their 2016-17 funding for schools or for high needs next year. Final allocations for that will follow in December on the basis of the latest pupil numbers, as usual. My written statement also confirms that for 2017-18 we will retain the minimum funding guarantee for schools, so that no school can face a funding reduction of more than 1.5% per pupil next year. As my written statement today confirms, I am determined to ensure both that we move to a fair funding system and that we do so in a measured and properly consultative fashion.

This will be a crucial part of delivering an education system that works for every child, no matter their background.

[Neil Carmichael](#)

The key point, as the Secretary of State has spotted, is that local authorities need to have time to prepare, and so too do schools. So the essential question is: can the Government really meet this timetable as set out, because that is the desire of all schools, particularly in England obviously, and it is of interest to every single Member of Parliament in England? I ask the Secretary of State to confirm when she really does expect this programme to be fulfilled, and how she is going to be sure that the next consultation period does not take quite as long as the previous one, because that took some three months to complete, and we still do not know where we are. Those are the key questions.

[Justine Greening](#)

My hon. Friend is right that we want to strike a balance between moving rapidly towards a fairer funding formula while at the same time making sure we do so in a way that allows time not only for the details of that formula to be debated, because they will have a big impact on how it works effectively, but for local authorities, and indeed schools, to understand the changes and then prepare. That is the balance that I have tried to strike today.

I also want to act responsibly by ensuring that we do not rush into making changes without being fully sighted of their ramifications. I

know that the debates in Parliament on the fair funding formula have resulted in long-standing frustration and I am committed to resolving that, but I want to be sure that we do this effectively so that we do not have to revisit it because we have not got it right the first time.

[Angela Rayner \(Ashton-under-Lyne\) \(Lab\)](#)

This Government's attitude to school funding is woeful. Talk about last minute! Schools are struggling to cope with a 5% funding shortfall as a result of the Chancellor's decision to increase national insurance and teachers' pension contributions. Does the Secretary of State not recognise that pupil numbers are rising and that the shortage of teachers is growing? Will she put money into helping schools in the new formula? Only this Government could have the audacity to deliver real-terms cuts to school budgets across the country and claim that it represented fair funding. Will the Secretary of State publish in the Library of the House the amount that each local authority has received under the existing funding formula and the amount that it will receive following today's announcement?

[Justine Greening](#)

The hon. Lady has asked a range of questions. In summary, I have made it clear in my written statement today that no authority will lose funding either for schools or for high needs. This will enable us to give authorities a firm foundation on which to start planning for next year. The reality is that we have seen funding for schools and across education rising. This has been one of the areas that this Government and the coalition Government have sought to protect, and that has been evidenced in the results. We now have 1.4 million more children in good or outstanding schools, and we want that progress to continue.

[Jeremy Lefroy \(Stafford\) \(Con\)](#)

Schools in Staffordshire are among the lowest funded in the country, and that is a matter of great concern for the headteachers I met last week. We understood that we were moving to a fairer funding formula from 2017-18, but it now seems that it will happen a year later. Will the Secretary of State make it absolutely clear that there could be transitional funding for 2017-18 for those authorities that are in a desperate position, as Staffordshire is?

[Justine Greening](#)

I recognise the pressures that my hon. Friend has just set out. This now gives us time to look at how we can deal effectively with those issues. We should also recognise that, while some schools are disadvantaged by the current formula, there will also be changes for schools under the new formula, and this gives us a chance to work effectively with them to ensure that there is a sensible and measured transition from the historical approach to the fairer, sensible approach that we are introducing.

[Mr Gareth Thomas \(Harrow West\) \(Lab/Co-op\)](#)

Prior to the Secretary of State's appointment, the noises coming out of the Department for Education suggested that London schools, in particular, would be seriously hit by the changes to the funding formula. Schools in Harrow have been advised that they will face a real-terms budget cut of between 3% and 8% as a result of the changes that her Department is considering. Can she offer any reassurance to the headteachers and parents in my constituency that that will not be the case?

[Justine Greening](#)

I have set out the details in my statement today of how we are going to proceed. As the hon. Gentleman says, some schools will see a change in the funding they receive as a result of our evening up the system and making it fairer, and these are important changes. It is therefore right that we should give ourselves the time to ensure that we can be effective in helping schools to deal with the changes well through a steady transition.

[Michelle Donelan \(Chippenham\) \(Con\)](#)

Given the optimism that schools in Chippenham felt on hearing the announcement of a fairer funding formula to rectify the ludicrous situation in which Wiltshire pupils receive over £2,000 less than pupils in other areas, will the Secretary of State confirm her commitment to the people of Wiltshire, including the 8,000 who signed my fairer funding petition?

[Justine Greening](#)

I can indeed; we are going to get on with this funding formula. To tie my hon. Friend's point together with that of the hon. Member for Harrow West (Mr Thomas), we now have a school funding system and a funding formula, but we also introduced the pupil premium, so we have additional mechanisms to ensure that the funding follows disadvantaged pupils with additional needs. We are now trying to get a system in place that is sensible about the core funding that schools receive and not based on frankly very old data. At the same time, the system should take account of the fact that we are able to top up through the pupil premium and other funding mechanisms when we particularly want to tackle disadvantage.

[Seema Malhotra \(Feltham and Heston\) \(Lab/Co-op\)](#)

Will the Secretary of State confirm that, behind the warm words of fairer funding, school funding is still set to be cut by some 8% by 2020, as confirmed by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and that is coming at the same time as we see the threat of falling teacher numbers? Over a third of the children in this country currently leave school without five good GCSEs. Will she also confirm whether my local authority in Hounslow will see a funding cut? When will it know?

[Justine Greening](#)

I have been clear that no local authority will see a reduction in funding for 2017-18. My announcement today was clear that we will ensure that we have the time to bring in the fair funding formula effectively. The hon. Lady should not forget that, as I have set out, the introduction of the pupil premium means that we now have an additional £2.5 billion that will be specifically targeted to ensure that disadvantaged children get an additional top-up so that their schools can provide additional support.

[Jeremy Quin \(Horsham\) \(Con\)](#)

I am delighted by the Secretary of State's commitment to fair funding, which we clearly must get right, but I urge her to look urgently at transitional arrangements for counties such as West Sussex, which so desperately needs funding.

[Justine Greening](#)

My hon. Friend makes his point clearly. I assure him that we will look at a sensible approach for the transition period of 2017-18.

[Greg Mulholland \(Leeds North West\) \(LD\)](#)

As a former Select Committee colleague, I am delighted to see the Secretary of State in her new place and congratulate her. I urge her not to follow the example of her two predecessors; she should build a strong relationship with headteachers and teachers.

Will the Secretary of State make it absolutely clear that the pupil premium, which is hugely important for targeting funding at the most disadvantaged, will be protected in real terms when the changes are actually made?

[Justine Greening](#)

I remember my time on the Work and Pensions Committee with the hon. Gentleman with real fondness; I very much enjoyed it and learned a lot over those years. He mentions headteachers and teachers and one of the first things that I did upon coming into this role was to pick up the phone and call the teaching unions to introduce myself and to set up initial meetings. I saw them briefly yesterday and I hope that I can have a constructive, productive relationship. The most important people who helped me to get educated were my teachers, to whom I will be eternally grateful. It is important that that is recognised.

On the pupil premium, I can tell the hon. Gentleman that the funding rates are protected for the entire spending review period at 2015-16 rates.

[Mr David Nuttall \(Bury North\) \(Con\)](#)

Like myself, my right hon. Friend was educated in a comprehensive school in Rotherham, so I warmly welcome her to her new role. While we can adjust the school funding formula in the short term, does she agree that the only way to increase school resources in the long term is to have a strong and growing economy?

[Justine Greening](#)

My hon. Friend hits the nail on the head. I am proud that both of us went through the state school system in Rotherham. I hope to be able to go back up there in the coming weeks and months to revisit some of the schools that enabled me to have the education that gave me a platform to try to reach some of the goals that I set myself. As he says, a strong economy is vital for ensuring not only that we have the funding to invest in our education system, but that the children coming through our state school system have the opportunities to stretch themselves and to get the dignity of work.

[Melanie Onn \(Great Grimsby\) \(Lab\)](#)

I have written to the Secretary of State today and she will be receiving a letter shortly, so I hope that she will keep an eye out for it over the coming days.

Under the formula proposed by f40—the campaign for so-called fairer funding in schools—schools in north-east Lincolnshire suffer a £2.1 million cut, equivalent to over £100 per pupil a year. Does the Secretary of State agree that any formula that takes resources away from my constituency, in which no secondary school is currently rated outstanding, cannot be described as fair?

[Justine Greening](#)

I agree with the hon. Lady that, over time, the current formula had simply become out of date. It was based on statistics that needed to be updated but, in essence, could not be, so it was time to take a fresh look at how we could make it fair. Her second point about focusing our efforts on the remaining parts of the UK where our education system is simply not delivering for our children is vital, and I do plan to focus on this.

[Lucy Allan \(Telford\) \(Con\)](#)

My constituency contains significant areas of deprivation where there is underperformance, particularly among white working-class boys. Will my right hon. Friend assure me that nothing in this formula will have an adverse impact on the urban and deprived areas in my constituency?

[Justine Greening](#)

I have set out how local authorities, including my hon. Friend's, will not be seeing a reduction in funding for 2017-18. Targeting the parts of our country where children are just not getting the start they deserve and need in order to do well in life will be central to my efforts, alongside making sure that we continue to lift outcomes for children overall across the rest of the country.

[Mr Barry Sheerman \(Huddersfield\) \(Lab/Co-op\)](#)

I warmly welcome the Secretary of State to her post and the other new Minister, the skills Minister, as well as some of the old team. I chair the advisory council of the Sutton Trust, and we look forward to working positively and creatively with the Secretary of State. May I remind her

that England is a vast society that is changing all the time? Other Governments, including Labour Governments, have not cracked the problem of getting the funding to the right places at the right time, so will she consider having an independent group, even a commission, to look at this, year on year, month on month, so that we get it right? That is just a germ of an idea, but will she consider it, because we all get this wrong at some stage?

[Justine Greening](#)

I make two points in response to the hon. Gentleman's important point. First, we have to make sure that although we set policy at the Whitehall level, we understand how best to ensure it can have the impact we seek at the individual child level. That is not always easy. We can learn from examples such as city deals, where local areas have taken ownership of physical infrastructure to make sure that there is a common plan that the Government nationally are investing in alongside a local plan. His point is a really strong one.

Secondly, I want my Department to be a central engine for social mobility more broadly. We need to challenge ourselves across government, and the Department for Education has a key role to play on this in saying that not only do we want children to be coming out of our schools better educated, but we want to make sure that the jobs and careers are there for them to be able to make the most of their potential. In the end, a country's most important asset is its people, which is why I am so delighted I am in the job I am in.

[Mr Philip Hollobone \(Kettering\) \(Con\)](#)

May I highlight to my right hon. Friend that Kettering has 8,879 primary places, rising to 9,677 by 2021, and 6,700 secondary places, rising to 7,637 by 2021? The county council says that all places will be full by the 2017-18 academic year. Will she ensure that when she looks at the issue of fairer funding, counties such as Northamptonshire and places such as Kettering, which have some of the fastest rates of house building in the whole country, get the funding they need to make sure we have enough school places for our children?

[Justine Greening](#)

My hon. Friend raises the important issue that alongside many of the reforms we have introduced a demographic shift is taking place which means we simply need to scale up our education system to keep pace with the number of children who need it. We have created 600,000 school places, but we need to do more. I assure him that the funding formula statement that I am setting out today means we are in a better position going forward as we introduce it to make sure fair funding follows the child, including in Kettering.

[Stephen Timms \(East Ham\) \(Lab\)](#)

I warmly congratulate the Secretary of State on her appointment, and she is absolutely right not to rush this, because getting the new formula wrong would be a disaster. The previous Under-Secretary, the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr Gyimah), offered at the Select Committee

to meet me and my hon. Friend the Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns), who is in his place, to discuss the case for a rapid pupil turnover factor in the new formula. Will she confirm that that offer still stands and let us know which member of her team that meeting should now be with?

[Justine Greening](#)

That offer does still stand. I will get back to the right hon. Gentleman when we have worked out which Minister will attend the meeting.

[Philip Davies \(Shipley\) \(Con\)](#)

Following on from my hon. Friend the Member for Kettering (Mr Hollobone), more and more parents in many parts of my constituency are finding it difficult to get their child into the school of their choice. Just to give one example, there is a desperate need for more secondary school places in Wharfedale in my constituency. May I ask the Secretary of State, whom I very warmly welcome to her new role, to look at the need for school places in the Shipley constituency and ensure that my parents can get their children into the school of their choice, because at the moment, for many of them, that is a distant dream?

[Justine Greening](#)

Again, this is an incredibly fundamental and important issue. I simply assure my hon. Friend that I am well aware of the need to ensure that, alongside all the other changes that are rippling through the education system, we have enough places for the children of our country, that we have enough teachers who can be in those classrooms teaching them, and that those teachers are outstanding and excellent and able to excite children in the classroom, help them learn and give them that best start in life.

[Ian Mearns \(Gateshead\) \(Lab\)](#)

I, too, welcome the Secretary of State to her place. I am sure that she is looking forward to her appearances before the Education Committee, probably starting in the autumn.

Fairer funding inherently means a process of redistribution, and many schools, heads and governors whose budgets are already at the margins and who are possibly looking forward to a 1.5% per pupil cut will be looking at that with real trepidation, particularly if they are already in receipt of tight budgets. There is a great deal of social need in an awful lot of schools in constituencies such as mine. It is mainly a shire county appeal that has come from the f40, and an awful lot of schools in the inner cities are wondering whether they will be on the receiving end of a cut.

[Justine Greening](#)

I recognise what the hon. Gentleman is saying. I underline the rationale behind why we introduced the pupil premium in the first place, which was to address many of the points that he has made. His comments underline why I am setting out this statement today. It is a substantial

change in funding for all schools and therefore, ultimately, we need to get it right.

[Ruth Cadbury \(Brentford and Isleworth\) \(Lab\)](#)

I, too, welcome the Secretary of State to her role, and welcome the inclusion of skills in her brief, as it has been too far from the centre of education policy recently.

Following on from the question of my fellow Hounslow colleague, my hon. Friend the Member for Feltham and Heston (Seema Malhotra), will implementation of fairer funding in Hounslow mean even greater cuts from 2018? Will the Secretary of State reassure the heads that we met a couple of weeks ago, as they are already having to make cuts to things such as A-level options, support for children with special needs, mental health counselling and support and so on?

[Justine Greening](#)

As I set out in my statement today, we will be launching a consultation on the detail of how we plan to introduce the funding formula. That will give both the hon. Lady and her local schools and teachers ample opportunity to be able to feed in their local perspective.

[Andrew Gwynne \(Denton and Reddish\) \(Lab\)](#)

Representing as I do a cross-borough constituency, I know the unfairness of the current system. It cannot be fair that a child from Reddish in Stockport receives less funding than a child from Denton in Tameside—areas that share the same socio-economic characteristics, but are in different local authorities. Will the Secretary of State's new fairer funding formula ensure that those children in Reddish are not disadvantaged just because they are in a more prosperous borough overall, and that their funding will be matched to those of the children in Denton?

[Justine Greening](#)

I think that I can confirm to the hon. Gentleman that the funding formula will start to iron out those sorts of inequities. Once we launch the second phase consultation, he will be interested to see the criteria and characteristics that we will incorporate to help ensure that we have a fairer approach on funding for schools in the future than we have had in the past. I will also set out for him the architecture of what we are trying to achieve. If we want to overlay significant additional resources in relation to deprivation, we want to do it in a smarter way and we want to use things such as the pupil premium to do it effectively. We recognise that we also need to have an element of understanding about the attainment, the eligibility for free school meals and other characteristics in the core funding formula too.

4.3 PQs

[Schools: Crawley](#)

Asked by: Smith, Henry

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans her Department has to increase the number of school places in Crawley.

Answering member: Edward Timpson

Local authorities are responsible for planning and securing sufficient school places in their area, and supporting them to do so is one of this Government's top priorities. That is why we have committed to spending £7 billion on school places up to 2021, which along with our investment in the free schools programme we expect to deliver 600,000 new places.

Basic need funding is allocated to local authorities to help them to create new school places. West Sussex received £113 million of basic need funding between 2011 and 2015, which helped to create almost 10,000 new places between 2010 and 2015. These new places include over 1,000 provided by the Gatwick School, an all-through free school in Crawley.

West Sussex has also been allocated a further £85 million to create the places needed by 2019, including in Crawley.

Information on basic need allocations can be found on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-need-allocations>

29 Apr 2016 | Written questions | 34742

[Pupils: Per Capita Costs](#)

Asked by: Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government which 10 local authorities have (1) the most, and (2) the least, pupil funding.

Answering member: Lord Nash

Local authorities (LAs) are funded for their schools through the dedicated schools grant (DSG). This currently comprises three blocks, namely schools, early years and high needs. Each LA has its own school block unit of funding (SBUF), and the 10 highest and lowest 10 SBUFs for financial year 2016 to 2017 are shown below:

10 highest funded LAs	2016-2017 SBUF	10 lowest funded LAs	2016-2017 SBUF
City of London	8,587	Leicestershire	4,238
Tower Hamlets	6,982	Dorset	4,232
Hackney	6,858	Stockport	4,229
Lambeth	6,486	Trafford	4,227
Southwark	6,463	South Gloucestershire	4,214
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,351	Cheshire East	4,206
Camden	6,233	York	4,202
Islington	6,221	West Sussex	4,198
Newham	6,127	Poole	4,187
Westminster	6,020	Wokingham	4,167

15 Feb 2016 | Written questions | HL5858

[Schools: West Sussex](#)

Asked by: Soames, Sir Nicholas

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will place in the Library a copy of the underlying local wage data used to calculate the area cost adjustment factor for the (a) West Sussex Fringe and (b) West Sussex Non-Fringe element of the school grant.

Answering member: Mr Sam Gyimah

The area cost adjustment for the schools block of the dedicated schools grant for 2015-16 is based on a combination of a teacher cost adjustment and a general labour market specific cost adjustment for non-teaching staff pay.

Teacher cost adjustments for the four regional pay bands (and the area cost adjustment itself) was published in the technical note to "Fairer schools funding: arrangements for 2015 to 2016":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fairer-schools-funding-arrangements-for-2015-to-2016>

The general labour market specific cost adjustment was calculated and published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in "Methodology Guide for the Area Cost Adjustment 2013/14":

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140505104649/http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1314/methacas.pdf>

The methodology for combining the teacher and general labour market elements into the area cost adjustment is described in Annex C of "Fairer schools funding 2015 to 2016":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fairer-schools-funding-2015-to-2016>

A map showing the area covered by the Department's definition of a) the West Sussex Fringe and b) the West Sussex Non-Fringe is attached.

[West Sussex: Fringe and Non-Fringe Map](#) (Word Document, 2.12 MB)

04 Dec 2015 | Written questions | 17715

[Schools: West Sussex](#)

Asked by: Soames, Sir Nicholas

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps are being taken to ensure that schools in West Sussex are delivering educational excellence.

Answering member: Nick Gibb

Provisional information on the latest Key Stage 2 results in West Sussex and other local authorities is published as part of the "National curriculum assessments: key stage 2, 2015 (provisional)" release[1].

These indicate that 77% of pupils in West Sussex local authority achieved level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics, below the national average of 80%. This is down from 78% in 2013/14.

In the same year, 21% of pupils in West Sussex local authority achieved level 5 or above in reading, writing and mathematics, below the national average of 24%. This is down from 22% in 2013/14.

Since the phonics check was introduced in West Sussex, the proportion of children who achieve the expected standard has risen each year to 73% in 2015. This remains, however, below the national average of 77%.

Standards in some West Sussex schools are currently too low. I have therefore written to West Sussex County Council, asking them to set out their plans to improve results, so that more children in West Sussex receive the standard of education to which they are entitled.

This is part of our national plan to raise standards, by setting higher expectations in our curriculum and qualifications; creating a self-improving school system; and promoting strong school governance through academies and free schools. We are also committed to making sure schools are funded fairly so all pupils have access to a good education – a key part of our core mission ensure every child reaches their full potential.

[1] 2014/15 provisional local authority level tables can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/456135/SFR30_2015_KS2_LA_Tables.xls

23 Oct 2015 | Written questions | 12680

[Community Schools: West Sussex](#)

Asked by: Soames, Sir Nicholas

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the (a) budget and (b) pupil number was for each community school in the county of West Sussex in each year from 2005-06 to 2014-15.

Answering member: Edward Timpson

In response to PQs 9189-9193, please find attached an Excel workbook that details the individual school and academy budgets and pupil numbers for all providers in the West Sussex local authority area. These have been sourced wherever possible up to 2012-2013 from published section 251 statements, which detail local authority spending at school level and from published school and academy allocations for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Since 2005-06 there has been an increasing number of providers who are funded centrally as they join the academy programme. It should be noted that academies are funded using the same local authority formulae as an LA maintained school, and any differences locally reflect the demographic profile and population of the school or academy.

[Budget and pupil number data](#) (Excel Spreadsheet, 314.62 KB)

14 Sep 2015 | Written questions | 9193

[Schools: Finance](#)

Asked by: Soames, Sir Nicholas

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she plans to alter the school funding formula; and if she will make a statement.

Answering member: Mr Sam Gyimah

The Government is committed to making school funding fairer, to protecting the schools budget and to maintaining the Minimum Funding Levels uplift in this Parliament.

The Government has already made significant progress on these commitments. We have protected schools funding for 2016-17 and baked into the baseline the extra £390 million we allocated in the previous parliament to the least fairly funded local authorities. We will come forward with our proposals on making school funding fairer in due course.

The Secretary of State and I met with my Honourable Friend the Member for Mid Sussex and colleagues from West Sussex recently to discuss the issue. The Government fully understands the strength of feeling among Members that school funding needs to be made fairer.

14 Sep 2015 | Written questions | 9187

[School Funding](#)

Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames (Mid Sussex) (Con)

What steps she is taking to develop leadership skills for head teachers.

Will my right hon. Friend agree to receive a delegation from West Sussex, a county that has been significantly badly treated in local settlements? Is she aware that, during the general election, a number of headteachers asked to see Members in Mid Sussex, and it is clear that, unless there is a move towards a national funding formula, schools in

Mid Sussex and West Sussex will continue to be significantly badly treated?

Answered by: Nicky Morgan

I am, of course, always pleased to discuss those issues with my right hon. Friend and his fellow Sussex MPs. He captures very well the reason we can no longer afford to sit back and allow the formula to work as originally designed—the inequities in funding across the country. We have made a clear commitment to tackle the issue and I look forward to working on it with my right hon. Friend and other Members.

15 Jun 2015 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | 597 c4

5. Annex A: school funding in West Sussex

Dedicated Schools Grant: Summary of allocations for West Sussex

	West Sussex		England		Difference in per pupil funding, local authority compared to England	
	Guaranteed unit of funding per pupil	Total allocation	Guaranteed unit of funding per pupil	Total allocation		
	£	£ million	£	£ million	£	%
<i>2005-06 baseline</i>	3,268	..	3,411	..	-142	-4.2%
2006-07	3,488	367	3,643	26,574	-155	-4.2%
2007-08	3,711	385	3,888	28,032	-177	-4.5%
2008-09	3,877	400	4,066	29,031	-189	-4.6%
2009-10	4,018	400	4,218	29,953	-200	-4.7%
2010-11	4,186	432	4,398	31,187	-212	-4.8%
<i>Adjusted 2010-11</i>	4,705	489	5,083	36,388	-378	-7.4%
2011-12	4,705	493	5,083	36,543	-378	-7.4%
2012-13	4,705	497	5,083	36,855	-378	-7.4%

Breakdown by blocks, 2013-14 onwards and notional 2012-13 only

	Schools block		Early years block		High needs block	Additions and deductions	Total	Difference in per pupil funding, local authority compared to England (%)	
	£ per pupil	£ million	£ per 3&4 yr old pupil	£ million				Schools block	Early years block
West Sussex									
<i>2012-13 adjusted</i>	4,196	406	3,883	26	67	-	-	-7.8%	-9.3%
2013-14	4,196	410	3,883	27	68	6	511	-7.8%	-9.3%
2014-15	4,196	414	3,883	27	71	7	519	-7.9%	-9.3%
<i>2015-16 adjusted</i>									
2015-16	-	421	-	33	72	0	526	-	-
2016-17	4,198	428	3,883	33	72	4	529	-9.5%	-9.3%
England									
<i>2012-13 adjusted</i>	4,551	30,076	4,282	2,100	4,838	-	-	-	-
2013-14	4,551	30,412	4,282	2,119	4,966	572	38,068	-	-
2014-15	4,555	30,655	4,283	2,184	5,184	718	38,741	-	-
<i>2015-16 adjusted</i>									
2015-16	-	32,168	-	2,700	5,246	10	40,125	-	-
2016-17	4,636	32,649	4,282	2,700	5,305	10	40,218	-	-

Notes: Total allocations are after the application of floors and ceilings and before recoupment for academies

In 2011-12 a wide range of grants for schools were 'mainstreamed' into DSG. Adjusted 2010-11 figures are included to indicate the scale of changes in 2011-12 on a near like-for-like basis

In 2013-14 DSG was split into three different blocks. In addition some grant funding for SEN, funding for 16-19 high needs and early years funding for two year olds were transferred into DSG. 2012-13 totals are adjusted, notionally allocated to blocks and additional funding separated out to show near like for like changes.

Additions and deductions includes the cash floor and, for 2014-15, deductions for the Carbon Reduction Commitment energy efficiency scheme payments

Schools block 2015-16 includes 'fair funding' allocations to qualifying authorities. This was incorporated in 2016-17 allocations

Unadjusted 2015-16 schools block includes funding for non-recoupment academies which has been transferred to DSG. This has been fully incorporated into 2016-17 figures

Unadjusted 2015-16 early years block includes pupil premium funding and funding for disadvantaged two year olds

Funding for disadvantaged two year olds was included under 'additions and deductions' in 2013-14 and 2014-15. It has been moved to the early years block from 2015-16

The 2015-16 adjusted additions and deductions includes funding for two year olds. The 2015-16 adjusted early years block excludes this funding.

2015-16 and later funding for two year olds is based on actual participation rather than target number of places for the first time. These may be adjusted in year.

The 2016-17 High Needs block is before deductions for direct funding of high needs places by the EFA. The total DSG is net of this deduction

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