**National Funding Formula Consultation - Potential Impact on Camden Schools including Eleanor Palmer**

**Background**

The government is proposing to introduce a new national system of funding schools because it believes that the current way it distributes funding for schools in England is unfair. Historically, education in urban areas have been better funded because decisions have been taken by local councils. In our case Camden Council has always prioritised education, taken account of relative levels of deprivation and funded schools to a high level. Because this has historically not been the case across the country, the government’s response is to introduce a national funding formula.

Camden Council and the borough’s schools are deeply concerned about the potential impact of the proposal on Camden schools. We are worried that to improve funding for less-well funded areas, relatively well-funded areas like London will have their funding reduced. This concern is shared across many other parts of the capital.

We are proud of the excellent standard of education offered by our schools and early years’ services within the challenging inner London context of significant levels of deprivation and high costs of living. The quality of education in Camden’s primary schools is amongst the highest in the country according to Ofsted inspection outcomes. In 2014-15, 94% of Camden primary pupils were being educated in Ofsted graded good or better schools putting us 4th best in the country and top in Central London. This compares with 73% good or better primary schools in Oxfordshire and 66% in Suffolk for example. 21 of Camden’s schools are rated as outstanding (including us) which is exceptionally high!

**What is the Government consulting on?**

It is consulting on introducing national funding formulas for schools and provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The first phase of the consultation asks for views on general principles and proposed funding criteria. **This consultation closes on 17 April 2016.**

There will be a second consultation on full proposals later this year.

**ELEANOR PALMER WILL DEFINTELY BE AFFECTED IF THE FORMULA DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD TO EXPECT UP TO 10% REAL TERM CUTS IN OUR BUDGET WHICH MEANS £120,000…WHICH MEANS TEACHERS.**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

**PLEASE PLEASE RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION. THE NUMBER OF RESPONSES MATTERS – WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THEY ARE WEIGHED – AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS RESPOND.**

**THE SIMPLEST WAY WOULD BE TO CUT AND PASTE THE FOLLOWING 5 HEADLINE POINTS (FEEL FREE TO ADD/AMEND) INTO A DOCUMENT AND EMAIL THEM TO** [SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk)

**YOU NEED NOT NAME OUR SCHOOL BUT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A LONDON PARENT .**

**ALTERNATVELY FOLLOW THE ONLINE LINK (THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE POSTED ONTO OUR NEWSLETTER AREA TODAY SO YOU CAN FOLLOW THE HYPERLINK)**

**Model response to the consultation on the principles of a new national funding formula**

* London schools are a national success story lauded internationally, both in terms of high attainment and in closing the attainment gap.
* There are many risks in de-stabilising the capital’s education system not least in terms of leadership. Over 50% of London’s heads are over 50 and recruitment is becoming increasingly challenging.
* Pupils in deprived urban areas face ‘double disadvantage’ (Sutton Trust November 2015): disadvantaged students have poorer outcomes and living in a poor neighbourhood compounds this. The Trust would like to see higher levels of resources maintained in these areas.
* The high cost of living, of employment and other costs in London should be a significant factor in the new formula.
* Local authorities and schools forums have local knowledge and understanding of schools and can apply a flexible local formula supported by schools forum. A national funding formula will not have the same responsiveness or precision.
* We certainly understand that schools in less well-funded areas should be funded fairly but we would want to see that introduced on the basis of a levelling up of resources not a levelling down.  We therefore ask the government to ensure that Camden schools should not lose any cash from the introduction of the new arrangements.

**Responding to the consultation**

Typically, the online response form is long and unwieldy……presumably to put people off.

The consultation documents and the online link for responses are available [here](https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula/consult_view) or

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula/consult_view>

We will put a draft set of responses (written by Camden’s schools forum) on our website alongside this week’s newsletter. Do cut and paste as a starting point!

If your internet browser does not support the online form you can access a hard copy you can print off and send directly by contacting the Education Funding Agency at this email address:

[SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolsNationalFundingFormula.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk)

On 22 March Schools Forum met and agreed to submit a joint Schools Forum and Council response. The Forum considered a paper which set out the implications of the changes for Camden and explained the two stage consultation process. The paper can be accessed here:

<http://democracy.camden.gov.uk/documents/s48556/Update%20on%20National%20schools%20Funding%20Consultation%20stage%201.pdf>

**Staff and governors will be at the school gate the first week back to further rally support with paper copies of suggested responses for you to sign and send. If we do not register that we want to preserve the quality of our education system – and that adequate funding is part of our success – then the cuts will just happen.**

**Please do your bit to support your child’s future!**