

Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

Your ref:

Date: 2nd December 2010

Our ref: Steve Worth

Direct dial: 020 8489 3708

Email: Stephen.worth@haringey.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Early Years Single Funding Formula

I am writing on behalf of the Haringey Schools Forum to draw your attention to the impact of the Early Years Single Funding Formula on our most needy children. The Forum is strongly committed to improving outcomes for all children and to the implementation of a funding formula that will ensure the sustainability of all early years providers. However, it believes that the geographical characteristics and history of early years provision in Haringey, combined with the relatively low per pupil funding we receive, will inevitably lead to resources being redirected from the more to the less needy. To prevent this regressive outcome the Forum is asking you to recognise the difficulty of Haringey's position and to find additional resources with which the Council can implement the formula without reducing services to its most deprived children.

The recent campaign 'A Fair Deal for Haringey Children' highlighted the anomalies within the Area Cost Adjustment that results in the serious under funding of our pupils. The Forum was pleased to hear you acknowledge the unfairness of the current funding formula when you spoke earlier this week at Woodside High school. Obviously we are disappointed that the Government has decided not to redress this problem next year. Haringey Council will therefore be implementing the single funding formula with already insufficient resources. The Forum is also concerned that the introduction of the Pupil Premium for statutory school age children will lead to a reduced Dedicated Schools Grant, further constraining the Council's capacity to fund provision for children under five without diverting resources from other, already underfunded, age groups.

The single funding formula will bring the funding of our private, voluntary and independent providers to a level more commensurate with their costs. The Forum fully

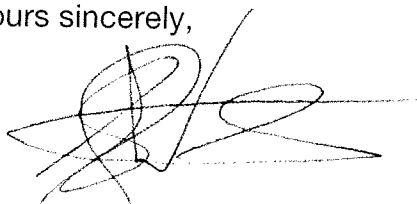
supports the intention behind this, but cannot support the resulting redistribution of already scarce resources from nursery classes and schools.

Historically, Haringey has invested heavily in early years provision and the great majority of our primary and infant schools have nursery classes. The distribution of these classes is borough wide and the Council's commitment to increasing the funding allocated through deprivation factors targets resources at the most needy areas. The provision of early years places by the private, voluntary and independent sector is skewed towards our less deprived neighbourhoods. This is a particular issue in Haringey which contains a distinct geographical split between the generally affluent west of the borough and the deprived east.

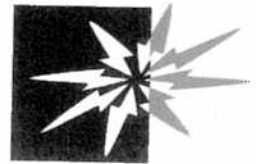
The formula the Council is proposing has a heavy weighting for deprivation, an average of £0.36 per hour compared with a median of £0.26 in pathfinder authorities. Despite this, the proposed formula will redistribute money from the more deprived east to the more affluent west of the borough and from maintained nursery classes and schools to providers in the private, voluntary and independent settings.

The Forum believe that the introduction of the single funding formula without the additional resources that would address the existing inequities of the Area Cost Adjustment will be detrimental to those very groups that both Government and Council policies seek to benefit.

Yours sincerely,

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Steve Worth,
For Haringey Schools Forum.



David Lammy MP
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

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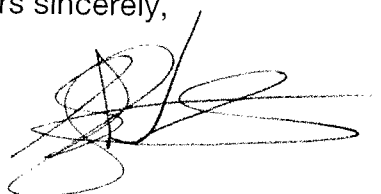
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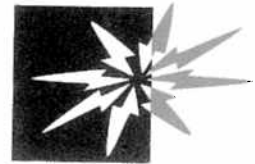
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Steve Worth,
For Haringey Schools Forum.



Lynne Featherstone MP
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

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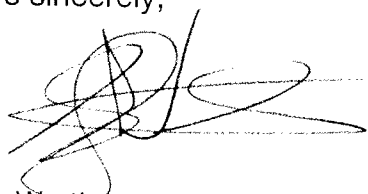
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