

Our ref:
Your ref:

Lord Agnew
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
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Dear Lord Agnew,

Bradford Schools Forum – High Needs Capital

I am writing to you as Chair of Bradford's Schools Forum and at the request of our Forum.

Responding to the significant increase in the number of children and young people with EHCPs, Bradford Council is currently working to significantly increase the number of specialist places available to meet the needs of children and young people in Bradford with SEND, through the development of resourced provisions and the expansion of special schools. The Council is immediately working to deliver an additional 354 places for September 2019.

The insufficiency of capital funds allocated from government to support the development of increased capacity is a matter of significant concern to Bradford Schools Forum. We are informed that Bradford Council has already needed to divert basic need capital to support the development of SEND capacity.

Bradford Schools Forum is extremely disappointed with the allocation of £0.3m that Bradford has received from the additional £100m of capital announced by the Secretary of State in his December letter. This brings Bradford's total allocation from the 'special provision fund' to £1.117m across 2018-2021. This is only 0.3% of the national pot of £365m.

I am writing to ask you to explain

- a) how Bradford has only been allocated £1.117m or 0.3% of a national pot. The guidance published alongside the allocations does not provide sufficient information to enable us to identify how Bradford could be so poorly funded in comparison with other local authorities. We believe that out of date ONS pupil projection data has been used. We wish to see the detailed methodology and data set.
- b) how the government will ensure going forward that sufficient capital resources are allocated to Bradford to support the continued expansion of SEND places capacity.

Thank you for your response on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Dianne Richardson
Chair of Bradford Schools Forum

