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Date: 3 May 2016



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QUESTION REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE (COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 40)

QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Does the Chairman of the Children & Young People's Committee share my concern that there have been two significant blows to funding and provision for young people in the Newark area, specifically the Devon Ward, which will affect, in particular, children from deprived backgrounds?

School/Pupil deprivation funding

On 10th December 2015 the Nottinghamshire Schools Forum agreed the local school funding formula for 2016-17, for submission to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and approval by the County Council Policy Committee. It recommended the same percentage of total funding, indicators and weightings to allocate deprivation funding in 2016-17 as was used in 2015-16.

This decision was made before the Schools Forum could have known the financial implications of changes to the *Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index* (IDACI), published by the EFA on the same day.

As you will be aware, IDACI measures the number of children in an area who are under age 16 and live in low income households. It is divided into six 'bands', based on the post code for each pupil and the probability of that pupil coming from an income deprived home. Band 6 represents the greatest probability (60% to 100%) of deprivation and consequently attracts the highest level of additional funding.

The changes to the IDACI mean that some pupils previously included within the highest deprivation bands (5 and 6) are now reassigned to a lower band, but the Nottinghamshire schools funding formula (adopted by Nottinghamshire County Council Policy Committee on 6th January 2016) has not changed to take this into account.

As a consequence, and despite some protection from the Minimum Funding Guarantee (which dictates that funding per pupil cannot drop by more than 1.5% per year), four Newark schools will suffer significant cuts to their funding:-

Magnus Academy	£66,607
Newark Academy	£39,934
The Sir Donald Bailey Academy	£24,375
William Gladstone C of E Primary School	£26,894

I understand that the Schools Forum is aware of this issue and has requested from the Council data on all schools which gain or lose from this discrepancy, in order to inform its budget setting process for 2017/18. However, this does not alleviate the problem facing these Newark schools in 2016/17.

End of 'Positive Futures'

The Chairman will also be aware that in return for an investment in Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club agreed in October 2012, the Council secured the Cricket Club's active participation in a 3-year 'Positive Futures' community scheme focused in particular on young people from deprived backgrounds. Children from a deprived area of Newark (Hawtonville) have benefited greatly from this work, but the funding for this programme has ceased without anything being put in place to build on the excellent work done by the Positive Futures Team.

Given that we share, I am sure, a desire to ensure that vulnerable young people from deprived areas in Newark are not disadvantaged by this loss of funding and provision, what measures can the Council take to mitigate these issues?



Councillor Stuart Wallace (Member for Newark East)

Received in Democratic Services

By Sara Allmond
Date 3/5/16
Time 12.26pm