

Action Cerebral Palsy

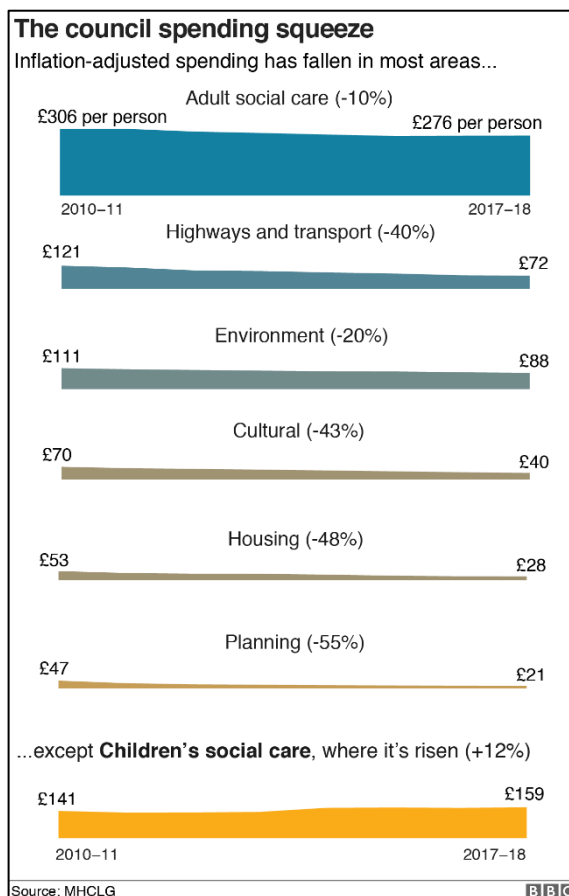
Political & Parliamentary Monitoring

Week Commencing 4th February 2019

MPs have been debating the [local government funding settlement](#) for 2019/2020 this week, which Ministers claim will “pave the way for a more confident, self-sufficient and reinvigorated local government.” James Brokenshire, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has said that the local councils will have an extra £1.3 billion to spend in the next financial year, but the guaranteed government grant – the portion of money allocated from central government funds to local authorities – will continue to fall.

The future financial settlement for local councils is significant given the responsibility they have over school nurse funding, provision for those with special educational needs, funding for schools and

children’s services. Given the growing demand on all of these services, the Local Government Association (LGA), which represents authorities on the national stage, has said an additional £3 billion was needed to support local government.



The debate on the funding settlement comes in the same week that the Public Accounts Committee published a [report](#) which noted that local authorities in England have seen their core funding from central government slashed by nearly 50 per cent since 2010/11. The report added that “the fact that government has bailed out councils with short-term fixes should be evidence enough that all is far from well.”

Action Cerebral Palsy will be concerned that local authority funding faces continue pressure moving forward, especially given the rise in demand and postcode lottery which currently exists.

Overview

- [NEU survey reveals SEND provision shortfalls](#)
- [Sheffield charity to build a centre for children with cerebral palsy](#)
- [Anger as Education Secretary demands 2 per cent pay increase cap](#)

NEU survey reveals SEND provision shortfalls

The results of a survey by the National Education Union (NEU) has revealed the concerning state of special needs provision across the UK. School and local authority budget cuts are making it increasingly difficult to provide the quality of education that every child with SEND is entitled to and which teachers and school staff want to be giving, the results reveal.

When asked to describe the situation at their school, and whether there are enough appropriately trained staff to support SEND pupils effectively, more than eight in 10 said that there was “less than enough staff”, with some respondents saying that they had seen services “cut by over 50%”, resulting “class sizes [which are] too large, so even when support is available, it’s ineffective.” The survey also asked about the barriers faced by SEND pupils, revealing a majority of teachers believed there are “excessive waiting times” for access to CAMHS, speech and language, and behaviour support.

Reacting to the results, Dr Mary Bousted, joint General-Secretary to the National Education Union, said that “the infrastructure to support SEND pupils is wearing away”, adding that the union would continue to campaign for schools to get the funding they need “to give children the education they deserve”.

This news will of interest to the ACP given one of the main tenets of its CPpledge campaign has been to highlight the need for additional specialist staff in schools, with the bespoke training in place to support educators looking to learn more about cerebral palsy care. Moving forward, Whitehouse will collate information from surveys such as this to create a bank of statistics for ACP’s public affairs and public relations work.

Sheffield charity £1m bid to build a centre for children with cerebral palsy

Paces, a Sheffield charity for children living with cerebral palsy has launched an ambitious £1 million fundraising effort to build a new centre of excellence. Paces is the biggest centre for conductive

education in the UK, a therapeutic technique which focuses on movement to aid people with neurological conditions.

The organisation plans to build the new purpose-built centre on land adjacent to their current premises which is no longer fit for purpose and are looking to fundraise to bring the project into fruition. Paces takes children from ages three to eighteen to partake in a programme of physical activity as well as traditional lessons in maths and English. They have worked closely with the local school of architecture to draw up designs for the centre and have begun the process of accessing Government funding, as well as commencing an independent fundraising drive.

The plan for the new building would be to have spacious classrooms to store equipment in, a hydrotherapy pool and an outdoor play area for the children. Spence Pitfield, Paces CEO, said ““These children and adults deserve better. I want to live in a country where people in greatest need get the best support”. To find out more about the campaign, visit www.pacessheffield.org.uk/newhome.

This news will interest ACP, given it is a specialist centre for young people with cerebral palsy. It is representative of ACPs mission of best practice at national and local levels. Given their work, Pace would also be a suitable organisation to approach when setting up the APPG.

Anger as education secretary demands 2% teacher pay rise cap

Damian Hinds, Secretary of State for Education, has come under fire after calling for teachers' September pay rises to be capped at two per cent. He made the demand in a 61-page submission to the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) which is currently considering its recommendations on teacher pay for 2019/20.

Mr Hinds' demand stands contrary to a joint submission from four education unions – Association of School and College Leaders, National Association of Head Teachers, National Education Union and Voice – who says that the STRB “must not be constrained by the Government's unwillingness to address the funding issue”. In July 2018, the STRB recommended that all pay and allowances for teachers be increased by 3.5 per cent. However, the Department for Education only gave 43.5 per cent an increase of 1.5 to two per cent.

This comes after a survey involving 34,000 teachers, published by the NEU, found that 24,000 of them stating they are thinking of leaving the teaching profession due to poor levels of pay or the performance-related pay system. Joint general secretary of the NEU, Dr Mary Bousted, said that a two per cent increase would create further problems with teacher supply. She added, “This disgraceful

move by the Education Secretary puts him at even greater odds with the profession he should be defending.”

This news will interest ACP, given it concerns teacher pay which does not help to retain talent, especially those with SEND experience. ACP will share the concerns regarding teacher pay.