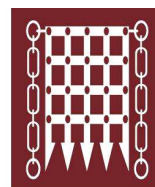


## Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Key issues for the schools national funding formula and improving financial efficiency

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER  
EDUCATION  
FORUM

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**James Heapey MP**
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Latest trends and priorities for school funding across England**  
**Luke Sibieta**, Programme Director, Education, Employment and Evaluation Sector, Institute for Fiscal Studies  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.55 **Moving towards a national funding formula for schools**  
**Tony Foot**, Director, Education Funding Group, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 - 10.45 **Next steps for school funding: implementing the national funding formula**  
*What will be the key issues for local authorities and schools - during the two-year transition period between the introduction of the 'soft' national funding formula from 2018-19 and the implementation of the 'hard' formula - in ensuring that there is a smooth implementation of the new funding arrangements? In the longer term, what ways can the Government and local authorities support schools to adapt to the changes to their school budgets that could result from the introduction of the national funding formula? With concerns raised about the lack of mobility between the LA funding blocks under the proposed new funding formula, should this be taken into consideration when finalising the final version? Will the new funding formula fulfil the Government's aim of reducing the degree of variation of the funding received by schools, and address worries about widespread underfunding across the education sector, especially in targeting deprivation and low prior achievement? How can the Government address concerns raised by teaching unions that the delaying of the roll out of the national funding formula and the lack of increase in school budgets will result in a real-terms cut to school budgets next year due to the rise in school costs?*  
**Valentine Mulholland**, Head of Policy, NAHT  
**John Fowler**, Policy Manager, Local Government Information Unit  
**Andrew Minall**, Representative, f40 and Finance Business Partner (Children's Services) and Head of Education Financial Services, Hampshire County Council  
**Emma Knights**, Chief Executive, National Governors' Association  
**Patrick Foley**, Headteacher, Southborough Primary School, Bromley  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**James Heapey MP**
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Mike Kane MP**, Shadow Schools Minister
- 11.20 - 11.35 **Reforms to High Needs Funding - current arrangements and next steps**  
**Russell Ewens**, Funding Policy Unit, Department for Education  
**Benedict Coffin**, SEND Policy Adviser, Department for Education
- 11.35 - 12.00 **Reforms to funding for SEND pupils and implementing a national High Needs Funding formula for schools**  
**Julia Harnden**, Funding Specialist, ASCL  
**John Fowler**, Policy Manager, Local Government Information Unit  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Russell Ewens**, Funding Policy Unit, Department for Education and **Benedict Coffin**, SEND Policy Adviser, Department for Education
- 12.00 - 12.10 **Key findings from the National Audit Office inquiry into Financial sustainability in schools**  
**Mark Parrett**, Audit Manager, Education Value for Money, National Audit Office
- 12.10 - 12.55 **Improving financial efficiency in England's schools**  
*Following concerns from the National Audit Office that school funding could see a cut of £3 billion by 2019/20, what changes and new mechanisms might be needed to ensure that schools are able to manage their budgets effectively and ensure their financial sustainability? What could be learnt from the current best practice examples of the use of effective benchmarking in improving school efficiency at a time when schools are facing an increase in school costs? How can multi-academy trusts use collaboration between schools and their budgetary freedoms to reduce the costs of procurement and improve overall efficiency in their school clusters? What can be the contribution of school business managers to keep the costs down and to prepare for the pending reforms to school funding?*  
**Andrew Thraves**, Trustee, Academies Enterprise Trust  
**Kim Cannon**, Service Manager, Education Finance Team, EES for Schools  
**Natalie Dalvarez**, Head of Business Services and Governance, Herts for Learning  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Mark Parrett**, Audit Manager, Education Value for Money, National Audit Office
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Mike Kane MP**, Shadow Schools Minister  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum