

Surrey County Council Plans to Cut £1m from Children with Special Educational Needs

Conservative Surrey County Council (SCC) has presented a proposal to cut school funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). They plan to abolish the “additional SEN funding” which goes to 67 primary and 2 secondary schools in Surrey. These schools either have a large number of pupils with SEN, or a small budget. Under this proposal they will no longer receive up to £6,000 per SEN pupil (allocated over and above the basic Individual Pupil Support Budget), leaving a huge hole in their budgets.

The annual spending on “additional SEN funding” in Surrey is currently just over £1m - a tiny amount compared with the council’s overall spending. By trying to balance their budget on the backs of those who are most vulnerable but least able to speak up for themselves, SCC are risking the futures of children who should be their top priority. This funding cut to schools, at the worst possible time, will damage the education of all pupils and hamper the ability of teachers to bring out the best in the next generation.

The following schools in Surrey Heath are affected by this proposed cut:

- Heather Ridge Infant School
- Valley End CofE Infant School
- Windlesham Village Infant School
- Lightwater Village School
- Lakeside Primary School
- Gordon's School

The consultation with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors ends on 17 December 2020 and the funding is set to be cut from April 2021.

Surrey Heath Liberal Democrats very strongly oppose this cut - we can barely believe the council has brought it forward. The council has a duty to children with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. Conservative councillors supporting this should perhaps reflect on why they got into politics in the first place; if it was not to protect the vulnerable, why was it?

Please let your local County Councillor know your views on this cut and let us know if you support our position by signing the petition at <https://surreyheathlibdems.org.uk/en/petition/we-say-no-to-scc-proposal-to-cut-sen-funding-for-schools>

We intend to work with local schools and parents to fight against this shocking proposal.

Surrey Heath Liberal Democrats

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