

Children's Catch-up Funding

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Councillors M Powell, C Tegolo and S Wright

This Council recognises that:

- There has been an enormous impact from Covid-19 on schoolchildren in Bury
- The staff, pupils and Governors in our schools in Bury have worked incredibly hard to make sure the impact of Covid is mitigated
- For months at a time, most children have not been able to attend school, been isolated from their friends, and missed out on valuable experiences such as playing sports or learning a musical instrument
- The Government's former Education Commissioner Sir Kevan Collins recommended that £15 billion is required to help school children catch up on the learning and experiences they have lost during the pandemic

[ADD] – The Labour Party launched its £15 billion “Children’s Recovery Plan” in June, in line with Sir Kevan Collins’ recommendations. This plan includes Breakfast clubs and new activities for every child, Quality mental health support in every school, Small group tutoring for all who need it, not just 1%, Continued development for teachers, An Education Recovery Premium and Ensure no child goes hungry.

~~[REMOVE] - The Liberal Democrats announced a policy at their Party Conference in September 2021 calling for the full £15 billion to be made available as a ‘Catch-Up Fund’ for schoolchildren~~

~~– £5 billion of this fund would go directly to parents in the form of vouchers to be spent in the best way they see fit. This would mean each school child in Bury would receive £200 worth of vouchers a year for each of the next three years (these vouchers would increase to £400 – £600 a year for those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds or those in need of additional support)~~

This Council resolves to:

~~[REMOVE] - Welcome these proposals and acknowledge they would result in parents and carers being able to give their children new opportunities and experiences that they have sorely missed out on over the past 18 months~~

[ADD] – Welcome the Labour Party’s proposals and support the provision of the necessary resources for a strong recovery for our children and their education.

~~[REMOVE] - Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education to demand that the recommendations of the Liberal Democrat’s Children’s Catch-Up Policy are implemented in full. In particular, that the full £15 billion is made available as a Catch-Up Fund for schoolchildren, and that £5 billion of this goes directly to parents in the form of vouchers that can be spent on their choice of approved courses and experiences~~

[ADD] - Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education to demand that the recommendations of the Labour Party’s “Children’s Recovery Plan” are implemented in full.