Dear Damian Hinds, Secretary of State for Education

We, the undersigned, represent local government and education professionals who are deeply concerned for the provision of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in our care. The Government’s recent cash injection for SEND does not introduce any new money into Local Authority budgets and this will not solve the long term challenges LAs and schools face in delivering effective SEND provision.

Lack of adequate SEND funding is limiting local authorities’ ability to meet their statutory duties for children living with SEND. The result has been far-reaching reductions to SEND provision and nationally over 2,000 children and young people identified with complex needs with no education provision at all.

We call for:

→ A significant increase in High Needs Block funding to local authorities, which will allow LAs and schools to provide appropriate support to children and young people with the most complex needs

→ An immediate increase in funding for schools which will allow them to deliver additional support for SEND children

→ A fair, sustainable funding system for SEND that will respond to the individual needs of each local area and acknowledge the complexities of providing high quality SEND education

The Government must commit to working with local authorities and other stakeholders with an interest in SEND in order to achieve this. We urge the Government to act quickly on this matter, so that every child with SEND can receive the support they need to thrive.

Yours,
The undersigned

Local Authorities:

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Tim Cheetham

Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr. Evelyn Carpenter

Birmingham City Council
Cllr. Ian Ward

Bolton Council
Cllr. Ann Cunliffe

Bristol City Council
Cllr. Anna Keen

Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr. Lucy Nethsingha

Cumbria County Council
Cllr. Stewart Young

Ealing London Borough Council
Cllr. Yvonne Johnson

Enfield London Borough Council
Cllr. Achilles Georgiou

Gateshead Council
Cllr. Gary Haley

Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr. Anntoinette Bramble

Halton Borough Council
Cllr. Mike Wharton

Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council
Cllr. Larry Culhane

Hartlepool Borough Council
Cllr. Brenda Harrison

Hounslow London Borough Council
Cllr. Tom Bruce
Islington London Borough Council
Cllr. Richard Watts

Kingston London Borough Council
Cllr. Diane White

Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr. Jennifer Brathwaite

Leeds City Council
Cllr. Lisa Mulherin

Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr. Chris Barnham and Mayor Damien Egan

Liverpool City Council
Mayor Joe Anderson

Middlesbrough Council
Cllr. Janice Brunton-Dobson

Newcastle City Council
Cllr. Nick Forbes

Plymouth City Council
Cllr. Tudor Evans OBE

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr. Craig Hannaway

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Gordon Watson

Salford City Council
Cllr. Kate Lewis

Sheffield City Council
Cllr. Jayne Dunn

South Tyneside Council
Cllr. Iain Malcolm

St. Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Martin Bond

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr. Bob Cook

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Jane Baugh and Cllr Ray Bowker

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Chris Towe

Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr. Grace Williams

Warrington Borough Council
Cllr. Russ Bowden

Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Jenny Bullen

Wiltshire Council
Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE

Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr. Pauline Helliar-Symons

Supported by the School Cuts coalition:

Mary Bousted
Joint General Secretary
National Education Union

Dave Prentis
General Secretary
UNISON

Len McCluskey
General Secretary
Unite

Kevin Courtney
Joint General Secretary
National Education Union

Geoff Barton
General Secretary
ASCL

Tim Roache
General Secretary
GMB

Paul Whiteman
General Secretary
NAHT