



FYLDE ASSOCIATION

President: Mr. K.R. Cridland

Postal address:
187 St. Andrews Road South
Lytham St. Annes
Lancashire
FY8 1YB

E-mail: kencridland@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 07528 897641

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For immediate release

Public Meeting over Cuts to Local School Budgets

Meeting. We have called an OPEN PUBLIC MEETING on Thursday 25th May 2017 at 6.30pm in Wesham Community Centre, Church Road, Wesham, PR4 3DR SCHOOL to alert everyone to the extent of the cuts to school budgets hitting local schools as well as elsewhere. The speakers will be headteachers, governors and teachers who will explain the extent of the problem and answer any questions. We will then look at what we can do to stop things getting worse.

Publicity. There has been an advert in the local press, retired teachers are leafleting local primary parents as they pick up their children from school, and we held a stall in the centre of the town on Saturday, giving out more leaflets and talking to people. The advertisement and leaflet gives details of the cuts affecting individual local schools.

Quotes.

Joanne Gould, Vice-President of Fylde NUT who has led the organisation of the meeting said, "As a local resident, parent and teacher I am deeply concerned about the level and impact of the cuts to education both nationally and across the Fylde. These cuts will impact the resources and staffing available in our schools, and will impact all of our school age children. To hear more about how these cuts could potentially impact on our schools, please attend the meeting. Be assured that we, as a profession, will continue to do our very best for your children. Please help us give your children the education they deserve."

Paul Jackson, Secretary of Fylde NUT said, "It is part of my job to represent teachers in consultations with local schools. We know perfectly well how serious the cuts are hitting Fylde schools. All our Fylde secondary schools and many primary schools are already downsizing their staffing, with the most serious affect so far being a reduction of ten staff at Lytham St. Annes High. We know that schools and governors are really worried about the effects this will all have on the children in their charge."

Ken Cridand, President of Fylde NUT said, "We are blowing the whistle on how serious the schools cuts are at a time when politicians listen more carefully, when they can be more easily challenged and when they want our votes. If these cuts go ahead, there is a "real risk" of "declining standards". Those words are not ours. They come from the House of Commons

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all-party Committee of Public Accounts in their report on the 'Financial Sustainability of Schools' This was written on March 22nd this year. That report did not mince its words. In its conclusions, it makes two really significant points. One is that the Government, while demanding £3 billion efficiency savings from schools, has not assessed what all the cost pressures the Government itself is placing on schools, and also has no idea whether the £3 billion cut is affecting school standards, with no plans to act if it does. The other point is that the Government is not listening or engaging with schools and does not seem to understand the budgetary pressures that they are under already.

So, we have cuts to school budgets from a Government which promised in its last Manifesto that it would not make any. We also have a Government which is still pretending that cuts don't exist, while not engaging with schools to find out what is going on."

Joanne Gould said, "Government statistics have been used to produce figures for individual state schools and put them all on the Internet at www.schoolcuts.org.uk. Our advert and leaflet used those figures to help spread the news to the community. We will be asking local people to challenge their Fylde candidates in the general election over cuts to school funding. They can email the candidates directly from the website if they wish. Education cuts do not heal for the generation of children now in school. If we do nothing, these cuts will become even more damaging than they already are."

More information:

- Attached: Photo of the Stall on Saturday is attached.
- Attached: Advert and Flyer used locally.
- Attached: House of Commons Report referred to above.
- Attached: "What we are asking you to do and why", a paper which will be given out at the public meeting.
- Attached: Media release as a document.

More information from:

Ken Cridland –	kencridland@yahoo.co.uk	Mob: 07528 897641
Joanne Gould –	jogould1972@gmail.com	Mob: 07811 354321
Paul Jackson –	secretary@fylde.nut.org.uk	Mob: 07723 484340

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