



FYLDE ASSOCIATION

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For immediate release

Schools Budget Cuts - Retired teachers leaflet primary parents in Lytham St. Annes

Election 'Purdah' rules are presently preventing head teachers and others employed in state schools from speaking out about the serious budget cuts hitting most local primary and secondary schools. However, retired teachers are free to speak up and we will be leafleting parents at some primary schools in the Lytham St. Annes area Tuesday and Wednesday this week before the election on Thursday. This follows the very successful campaign to alert parents in the Kirkham and Wesham area before half term, as well as campaigns all around the country. Fylde election candidates have been requested by voters to sign up to a pledge. All have now agreed to do so. What they signed YES to is "I promise to oppose cutting per-pupil funding in real terms for schools in Fylde compared to 2015/16." We believe that Fylde is the only constituency in the country where this has happened. According to the website <http://schoolcuts.org.uk/> the pledges nationally so far are from Con: 1% | LD: 44% | Green: 54% | Lab: 59% of candidates.

Retired Fylde teacher Ken Cridland, who has written the leaflet being handed out in Lytham St. Annes said, "The secondary school where I taught for many years and both our own children attended is being badly hit. Ten members of staff will go this school year with more to follow, the 6th form is going, the number of courses at GCSE is reducing and class sizes are increasing. It is now clear that this is not an isolated problem and that nearly all Fylde schools are affected to some extent or other. Details have been collated at <http://schoolcuts.org.uk/> where people can find out the budget cuts in real terms for each school. I decided that people deserved to know the extent of this growing problem at a time when candidates are listening to voters. The National Union of Teachers supporting me."

The leaflet asks that people log onto www.schoolcuts.org.uk, to see the cuts to local schools and then email Fylde candidates from the website, to ensure they are fully aware of the strength of feeling on the issue. Voters are also asked to let canvassers seeking their votes know that school budgets are a big concern and spread the news to family, friends and neighbours.

Attached :

- Press release letter
- Leaflet being handed out to primary parents in Lytham St. Annes
- Purdah letter to schools from Lancashire
- The May letter from LSA Technology and Performing Arts College about the cuts there

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