1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to inform you that the proposed cuts to special schools, in their current form, have been withdrawn by the LA. We will work with the LA over the coming 9 months to help them to find a more sustainable solution, which will then be brought back to Schools Forum and Cabinet for approval at the end of the calendar year.

One of the key reasons to establish Enable Trust was to advocate for and raise the voice of our children and families in the system. This has been a good example of Enable Trust leading on the special school voice – galvanising support from special school leaders in South Glos., lobbying Government, challenging processes on legal grounds and advocating strongly for all our children. This voice has been all the more clear and loud thanks to your amazing support. Thank you for the fantastic letters you have sent to the council and the ways you raised the voice of our pupils. It has made such a difference. We have suggested to Cabinet that the LA works with parents and carers as they seek to re-design funding models.

Meanwhile, the Government has published its white paper on Education and its long-awaited SEND review consultation and there are strong indicators in these policy frameworks of schools trusts becoming the single system and a positive overhaul of the SEND system. Any changes to funding locally will likely be made redundant by a new national funding system for SEND in due course.

The SEND review is an open consultation and can be seen here:

SEND Review - right support, right place, right time (publishing.service.gov.uk)

The online consultation closes at **11:45pm on 1 July 2022** and can be submitted here.

It would be great if you have time to share your views to Government on how the system can improve.

Thank you again for your support.

Best wishes

Andrew Buckton

CEO Enable Trust