

Date: 18 September 2026
Enquiries to: Cllr Simon Alders
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The Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

By email and post

Dear Secretary of State,

Fair Funding for Suffolk

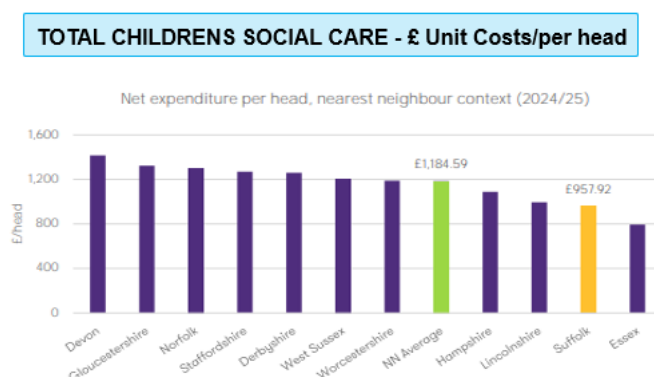
The historic county of Suffolk has always been part of the solid foundation of our great country. The Suffolk regiment fought without hesitation and in numerous battles for the country be it Gibraltar, Afghanistan both times, South Africa, India, France, Germany or Iraq as part of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Suffolk's farming and fishing industries have fed the nation, our industries and ports supply the raw materials that help to build our country and now once again we host huge infrastructure energy projects, nuclear, wind and solar. Throughout all this time whilst Suffolk has been a net contributor to the great British economy, our children's services, police, fire service and adult care services have always received lower than average funding from the government.

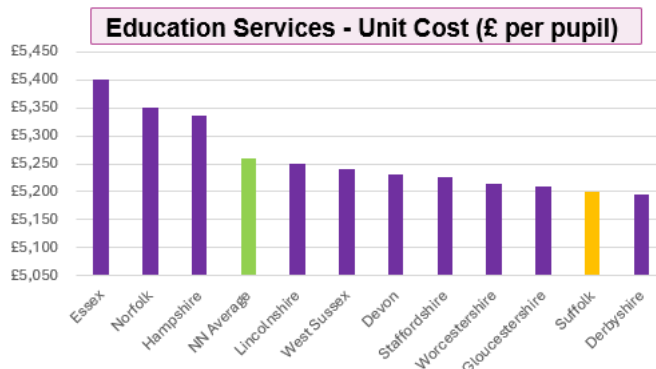
Today we ask on behalf of the Children's services and Education, the children and families of Suffolk, for that historic imbalance to be corrected.

This request is primarily about Suffolk children's services and education, the very foundations that will secure our country's future. We are not asking to be put ahead of our neighbours, just a simple equalisation with the average income for our county. You will see from these two straight forward graphs just how low Suffolk's funding has fallen.

Local Authority Nearest Neighbours Comparative 2024/25



- Suffolk is the second lowest spender in the near neighbour group on children social care services, with spend per head £227 below the near neighbour average (or 80.8% of NN unit cost).



- Suffolk is the second lowest spender in the near neighbour group for Education spend due to the low level of funding.

All this at a time when Suffolk, with 19.4% of its population under 18 (higher than the national average), is still welcoming many thousands of new residents with growing demand into the county. We are also improving services across the county, but all these things place a huge demand upon our already stretched services. So, we ask you to take this request to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and help Suffolk maintain its place as one of the building blocks, one of the foundation stones for our great country and to end the injustice of such chronic low funding. Low funding that has seen our services stretched almost to breaking point as the burden of new population groups and costs bear down upon our dedicated and hard-working staff, innovative services and hard-working population. Suffolk has never faltered in its service to the Country, now we ask you to recognise the increased burden we carry and to fund Suffolk fairly.

I have written all of our county's MPs to ask them to contact you to state our case in our campaign for Fair Funding for Suffolk.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Simon Alders
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Suffolk County Council