



Jessica Toale MP
Member of Parliament for Bournemouth West
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Tel: 020 7219 2928

Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

10 September 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

As Members of Parliament representing the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area, we are writing to you regarding the concerning letter from the leader of BCP council, Cllr. Millie Earl which has been shared with us.

BCP Council is under significant financial pressure and facing an immediate cashflow crisis due to the increasing expense of SEND services for children and young people in the BCP area.

The situation outlined by Cllr. Earl is stark. The news that the council is potentially facing insolvency is of great concern to us and to residents. The risk to public services provided by BCP is significant should a solution not be found.

It will be further worrying for the many parents of children with disabilities and special educational needs who have been on the receiving end of a local SEND system already at breaking point.

The position of BCP council is precarious, meaning it is important to address the issue without delay. We urge you to please consider the financial difficulties facing BCP Council and what support the Government can provide. We would be grateful if a Minister could meet with the leadership of BCP Council at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

Jessica Toale MP
Member of Parliament for Bournemouth West

Neil Duncan-Jordan MP
Member of Parliament for Poole

Tom Hayes MP
Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East

Vikki Slade MP
Member of Parliament for Mid Dorset and North Poole



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cc Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State, MHCLG