

Leader's Office
BCP Civic Centre
Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth
BH2 6DY



The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Date: 6th September 2024
Contact: Councillor Millie Earl
Email: millie.earl@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

**Sent by email to Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP's
Private Secretary olivia.shillabeer@communities.gov.uk**

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Cost of SEND Services to BCP Council ((Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole)

Please find attached, a letter which I have today sent to the Secretary of State for Education, but which identifies a major challenge to the ongoing financial viability of BCP Council, so needs your support.

In summary, we have identified an existential challenge as we will run out of cash to fund our services early in the next financial year, according to our forecasts, due to the cash outflow on the SEND budget where the cost of providing the statutory services greatly outstrips the budget provided by DfE.

Despite our best efforts, and participation in the Delivering Better Value and the Safety Valve programmes, DfE and their advisors have been unable to find a resolution to our challenge. Early in the next financial year, we will not have enough cash to fund our services, which is an untenable position for us to reach as a council.

I would be grateful for your urgent attention to this matter and your support for our financial position.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Millie Earl
Leader
BCP Council (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole)

Enc. Letter to the SoS for Education, Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP