

Funding the Future

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I am very angry about this [headline from the Guardian](#):

Special
educational
needs

Nearly 20 councils in England 'at risk of insolvency' due to Send costs

Exclusive: Councils say multibillion-pound debts caused by years of overspends on special educational needs support

● Scores of English councils could go bankrupt when hidden Send debt reappears

Why my frustration?

That's because there is no way on earth that these councils have financial problems due to meeting the cost of providing an appropriate education for children with non-standard educational requirements. They have financial problems because they have been inadequately funded by central government and a council tax system that is clearly not working appropriately, especially with regard to more expensive properties.

In other words, I am suggesting that the framing of this story and headline, which appears to imply children and their parents or guardians who stand up and demand what those in their care need, is wrong because it appears to blame those children for a financial situation for which they have no responsibility at all.

If a government that said nothing before it was elected, or since, about a system of funding for both SEND and local authorities that was always designed to fail because that government is, for its own political purposes, keen that local authorities fail so that they can be reorganised in a fashion few want or think will work, then Labour alone is responsible for this failure.

The Guardian should not be excusing Labour.

It should be apologising to children and their parents or guardians.

And it should be demanding better local democracy, instead of constructing excuses for its failure.