**GCC Education Services Budget Cuts**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you as a concerned **parent** and ***Glasgow resident and council tax payer*** to express my serious dismay that education has been hit with debilitating cuts over the next three years, in particular, drastic cuts to teaching jobs.

You will be well aware of the damaging long-term impact these decisions will have on the life chances of our young people, especially the most vulnerable in our city where over a third of children are already living in poverty. In addition, our pupils are still feeling the devastating effects of the COVID pandemic.

The distressing news of more to come, with over 500 teaching posts being lost due to cuts to education amounting to almost £28 million over the next three years, is the final straw.

Today I urge you to put pupils first and do everything within your power to reverse these cuts before it is too late.

Surely you are aware that teachers and support staff are already at breaking point from being overburdened by an excessive workload, carrying out roles that should be covered by professionals such as health, social workers, counsellors, educational psychologists and other specialists.

With challenging behaviour and violence on the rise, this mass reduction of teachers in Glasgow will create a significantly more dangerous environment for staff and pupils.

Many learners also have an identified additional support need, or a *Staged Intervention* requirement. If we cut teaching staff from schools, early intervention work will cease to exist, and the amount of support we can offer our children will reduce. Schools will also inevitably have to increase class sizes which is unacceptable.

To meet the needs of the young people in our care, **we need more resources, not fewer**.

We understand that the recently passed budget maintained the Children’s Holiday Food and Activity programme; invested in roads and open spaces; and supported work to reduce poverty and tackle the housing emergency.

These elements do not detract from the fact that our children will not be receiving the same standard of education that they have been and that they deserve.

The focus is that people will lose jobs, families will not be able to access nurseries as of 2026, the attainment gap will increase, the standard of Scottish education will decline, and good people will leave education for better opportunities. The system will be left on its knees.

In justifying the budget, we understand that those who passed it feel that a three-year budget gives the Council the opportunity to genuinely re-design services.

There will be no education service worth speaking of left to re-design. This cannot be permitted to happen.

This is an emergency situation and it requires emergency action.

We would very much appreciate you playing your part in persuading your fellow Councillors to reconsider their decisions.

Yours,

Insert name here

***A Concerned Parent, Glasgow Resident and Council Tax Payer***