Written evidence submitted by The Nuffield Foundation

14th July 2020

Dear Members of the Education Select Committee,

The Nuffield Foundation is an independent charitable trust with a mission to advance social well-being. We fund research that informs social policy, primarily in Education, Welfare, and Justice. (www.nuffieldfoundation.org)

The Nuffield Foundation recently granted funding to ASK Research and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the educational provision of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans, who normally attend Special Schools. Currently ASK Research and NFER are carrying out a representative survey of leaders of Special schools in England, across all phases (primary, secondary and post-16) as well as in-depth interviews with 40 school leaders and 40 parents of children who would normally be attending a Special school.

We anticipate that findings from this project will be able to answer your question about the effect of COVID-19 on “disadvantaged groups … and the long-term impact on the most vulnerable groups (such as pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and children in need)”, from the perspective of both Special school leaders and parents.

Fieldwork is currently underway and if you were willing to accept a late submission for evidence the research team could either provide you with headline findings for the 21st August or a more detailed report in early September.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know if you were able to accept a late submission for evidence for either of the dates suggested above or alternatively if there is another date by which you could accept late evidence.

If you are unable to accept late submissions of evidence, please do let me know and I will see if the research team is able to submit some early, very top-line findings by the deadline.

Best wishes,

Eleanor Ireland

Programme Head, Education

July 2020

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