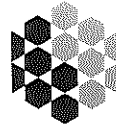


FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER



Department of

**Education**

[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

INV 0035/2017

Henry Downey  
Democratic Services Officer  
Democratic Services Section  
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Chief Executive's Department  
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*25<sup>th</sup>* February 2017

Dear Mr Downey

Thank you for your letter of 10 February, on behalf of Belfast City Council, requesting a meeting to discuss future funding of Extended Youth Service Provision. The Minister has read your correspondence and has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Minister has made it clear that in relation to funding for organisations delivering Extended, Outreach and Detached initiatives that no funding has been withdrawn, no decision has been taken to remove funding and there are no proposals to remove the funding.

The Minister appreciates the uncertainty around short term funding streams which are additional to the core youth budget and the impact this can have on workers across the sector. Whilst the overall budget available for youth services has not yet been agreed, the Minister has asked officials to ensure that within the funding available, a longer term approach is adopted to prioritise access to and longer opening times for centres operating in areas of disadvantage or near interface areas.

Due to the forthcoming Northern Ireland Assembly elections, the current Education Minister, Peter Weir, will cease to be Minister on 2 March and due to current diary commitments it will not be possible to schedule a meeting with him. You may wish to consider resubmitting your invitation to a new Minister once they have been appointed or, in the meantime, contact Sue Tyler, 028 91279 826 to arrange a meeting with Senior Officials.

Yours sincerely

**GLYNIS AIKEN  
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION**