

Pete Dwyer
Director of Learning, Culture and
Children's Services
City of York Council

27 July 2007

Dear Pete

CONTINUATION OF THE CHILDREN'S FUND TO 2011

As you may already be aware, the Government has recently announced the extension of the Children's Fund for a further three years until 2011, at the same cash levels as for 2007-08. I am sure you will welcome this announcement and understand the clear message this sends about the Government's commitment to prevention and early intervention.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an allocation figure for each of the three years to 2010-11, in order to give you the greatest possible future certainty.

The total amount of resource available to you each year will be £355,931

This amounts to total funding, over the 3-year period, of £1,067,793

My predecessor, Parmjit Dhandra MP, wrote to you in April 2007 about our expectations that the preventative approach is embedded into future children's services and the legacy of the Children's Fund is built upon. I would like to endorse that message. Preventative services can contribute to achieving future outcome targets. I would encourage you to look at the impact the Children's Fund has had on achieving positive outcomes, particularly around improving school attendance, raising children and young people's self-esteem, and preventing young people at risk from becoming involved in criminal activity.

The voluntary and community sector have proven to be instrumental in the development and delivery of innovative, preventative services, and it is vital that their involvement as partners at both a strategic and delivery level is sustained into future arrangements.

The *Aiming High for Children: Supporting Families* report, published on 29 March 2007, recognised the success of the Children's Fund, as well as the contribution it has made towards prevention over the last few years. It clearly recommends that it is vital that lessons learnt from the Children's Fund support the developing strategy for supporting children and families.

We recognise that prevention and early intervention need a whole system approach, led by the Children's Trust, with universal services playing a central role. We are therefore pleased to be able to make this additional grant available to local authorities in support of these aims.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

KEVIN BRENNAN MP