



Lord Hill of Oareford

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

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Mr Les Walton CBE
YPLA Chair
Young People's Learning Agency
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
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20th December 2010

Dear Les,

I am writing alongside the publication of the Young People's Learning Agency's Funding Statement to set out my expectations for the funding of young people's education and training in 2011-12.

I believe that every young person should aspire to furthering their education at the age of 16, whether that is on a full-time course in a college or school sixth form, or in training supported by their employer in their first steps on a career path. That is why we were able to confirm, as part of the recent Spending Review, our commitment to funding full participation amongst 16 and 17 year olds by 2015.

Over the period of the spending review we will be providing funding for a record number of young people in learning, on average some 1.64 million each year. The budget for teaching and learning for young people will be increased in 2011-12 to £7.612 billion. I believe that this 1.5% increase over planned 2010-11 budgets represents a good settlement in the context of the very difficult economic climate. But it still requires us to make some tough decisions to reduce unit costs and secure greater efficiency. I recognise that the efficiencies we are asking schools, colleges and training providers to make will not be easy. In taking those decisions we have sought to reflect a number of key priorities.

Firstly, we have been clear about the need to protect the main programme of learning undertaken by young people. What they learn needs to be relevant to the needs of the young person and have currency in further and higher education and in the world of work. I expect the funding and policies set out in the Funding Statement to support wide and varied options from a programme of A Levels and applied A Levels to vocational qualifications and Apprenticeships.

Secondly, we want to ensure that a part of the funding is rebalanced towards young people in greatest need. By funding the entitlement curriculum at 30 guided learning hours we are able to increase by £150 million in 2011-12 the amount which supports disadvantaged young people. I look to the YPLA to allocate the £150million to schools, colleges and other providers in a way that targets young people from our most disadvantaged areas or who are disadvantaged by other circumstances. At the same time we will remove the requirement on providers to deliver specific activities through enrichment funding. This will make sure head teachers and principals have the freedom to act to determine the provision that best meets the needs of the young people they are teaching.

Finally, our White Paper – *The Importance of Teaching* – sets out the Coalition Government's commitment to fair funding by ending the disparity in funding levels between school sixth forms and colleges by 2015. It is crucial that this is achieved in a way that is fair, transparent and avoids destabilising schools and colleges with a track record of delivering quality learning. I believe the transitional protection arrangements set out in your statement will do this and at the same time ensure that schools and colleges can plan the necessary changes they need to make in an orderly way.

In 2011/12, a record number of young people will be in education and training. I look to you, the YPLA Board and executive to continue your work with your partners to make sure the funding set out in your statement supports each and every one to succeed.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Hill', written in a cursive style.

JONATHAN HILL