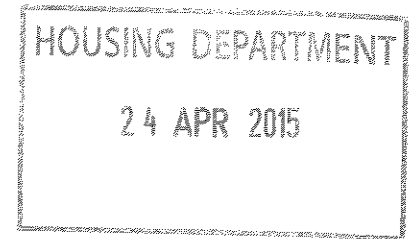




Oifig an Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna
Office of the Minister for Education and Skills

Ms. Marie Kavanagh
Senior Staff Officer
Housing Administration
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Town Centre
Tallaght
Dublin 24



PLEASE QUOTE OUR REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE
Our Ref: 1501734/SR

22 April 2015

Dear Ms. Kavanagh

I refer to your recent letter to the Minister for Education and Skills, Ms. Jan O'Sullivan TD regarding the motion passed by South Dublin County Council's Tallaght Area Committee Meeting in relation to Citywise Education.

The Department of Education and Skills is fully committed to addressing educational disadvantage and while services such as Citywise Education may meet a particular demand, it is also important to note the significant additional targeted resources that are deployed specifically for the purpose of combating educational disadvantage and early school leaving.

DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools), is the Departments main policy instrument to address educational disadvantage. There are four post primary and eighteen primary schools who participate in the DEIS programme in the area where Citywise Education is situated. These schools benefit from extra financial support, lower class size and access to various supports such as literacy and numeracy programmes, the School Meals Programme, the Junior Certificate School Programme and the Leaving Certificate Applied.

Schools in the Tallaght area also benefit from the services of the School Completion Programme (SCP) and the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) scheme, both managed by the Child and Family Agency (TUSLA). These services are available in all urban DEIS schools. SCP operates six projects in the Tallaght area incorporating six post primary and twenty four primary schools. SCP specifically supports and targets children and young people who are at risk of early school leaving while HSCL services are allocated to these schools to help parents support their children throughout their education. The overall objective of all of these supports is for improved outcomes for young people at risk of not engaging with the education system.

As detailed, there is already significant investment in combating educational disadvantage and early school leaving throughout the education system. This Department does not have a funding stream in place to support stand-alone projects such as Citywise Education. Consequently there is no scope to provide funding to this particular project.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

p.p

S. Reid

Sean Tansey
Private Secretary