

Sharon Conroy
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Dear Sharon,

Thank you for your correspondence of April 24th regarding the area Committee Meeting of April 17th and your call to increase funding for youth services in the Clondalkin and South West Clondalkin area.

My Department continues to invest in the delivery of youth services nationwide, with €78 million secured to support youth services in 2024, representing a 26% increase in this budget since 2020.

Funding is provided by my Department to all 16 ETBs around the country to support youth services in their area. The largest funding scheme managed at ETB level is the UBU Your Place Your Space scheme, which has received €47 million in 2024. This scheme is aimed at providing out-of-school supports to young people aged 10-24 in their local communities to enable them to overcome adverse circumstances and achieve their full potential by focusing on improving their social and development outcomes through young-person centred activities and programmes which are co-designed with young people.

A key premise of my Department's UBU Your Place Your Space scheme is that service delivery is informed by evidence of local needs. On the basis of a local area needs analysis, each ETB develops a Service Requirement, which is then used as the basis for service providers to enter the scheme and serves as the monitoring mechanism for ETBs to ensure that service providers are maximising their service delivery to meet the needs of young people in the area. This approach ensures that my Department can target supports to the young people most in need of intervention and that service provision is needs led and evidence informed. ETBs can reallocate funding within the UBU Your Place Your Space projects they oversee, to reflect population change and emerging needs.

Clondalkin comes under the purview of Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB, to which €8.787 million has been allocated under the UBU Your Place Your Space scheme this year. An additional €87,597 has been allocated to this ETB under the UBU Your Place Your Space Resilience and Effectiveness fund, which enables funded organisations to grow capacity as well as engage in and expand on innovative and responsive service delivery types to cater for and respond to emerging needs identified through the Area Profile exercise.

A further €398,889 has been allocated to Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB under the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme which supports volunteer led youth clubs across the country. In addition, €120,000 has been allocated to this ETB to support the integration of young Ukrainians under the Migrant Integration Fund. In addition, €55,732 has been provided to Clondalkin Youth Information Centre.

My officials and I will continue to engage with the Education and Training Boards across the country who have responsibility for supporting the provision, coordination, administration, and assessment of youth services in its functional area to understand the youth service needs of young people across the country.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh McDermott

Private Secretary to Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD