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Date: 24th May 2016



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

**Chair of Children and Young People's
Committee**
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

Dear Councillor Stuart Wallace

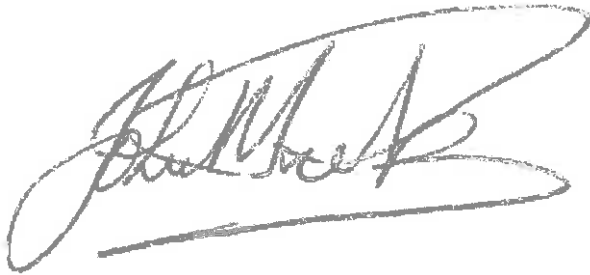
As Chair, I am always concerned when schools have to manage unexpected decreases in their school budgets, particularly at a time when they are also experiencing growing cost pressures.

The timing of the Department for Education's 5 year update to the IDACI index was unfortunate but as you point out, the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) has provided transitional protection against a larger loss in funding for those schools. I am advised by officers that the update to the IDACI index has impacted both positively and negatively on Nottinghamshire's individual school budgets, with schools in the most disadvantaged or deprived areas receiving increased funding. The Schools Forum is aware of the concerns regarding the impact this updated IDACI index has had on school budgets and there is an opportunity for this to be reviewed as part of its annual budget setting process.

The Local Authority is responsible for determining the school funding formula but it is very rare that the recommendations of the Schools Forum would not be accepted. I am also mindful of the national funding formula and the uncertainties that this poses for schools' funding, irrespective of any local determination of the school funding formula. Therefore, I cannot agree that the update to the IDACI dataset has disproportionately affected the Devon Ward as the schools funding formula has been consistently applied to calculating deprivation funding for all schools in the County.

As far as the Positive Futures scheme is concerned, I am aware that the project, operated by the community arm of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club via a three year funding agreement with the Council, that drew to a close in March of this year, undertook targeted youth work with many young people from the Hawtonville area. In this work, which was always seen as time limited, the Positive Futures team worked in a co-ordinated way with the Council's own services, including our children's social care, youth service, targeted youth support and youth offending teams. Now that the project has ended, I am assured by officers that Council services will continue to prioritise support for the young people of Hawtonville, and would point to the continuing popularity of the purpose built Hawtonville Young People's Centre, and the Outstanding (as judged by Ofsted) Hawtonville Children's Centre, as evidence of our ongoing commitment to supporting the children and families of the area, despite the difficult financial circumstances that the Council faces.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Peck', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Councillor John Peck
Chair of Children and Young People's Committee