

21 January 2011

Michael McGimpsey, MLA
Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Northern Ireland Assembly
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Minister

Children Fund – Non Funding of SK Programme in Northern Board Area

At a recent meeting the Council received a deputation from the parents of children with disabilities who have previously benefited from the SK Club which up to now has been funded by the Children's Fund.

This SK programme/club provided managed social interaction opportunities twice per week for their children. This in turn provided much needed respite for their parents who normally provide 24/7 care. In addition it also helped to develop the children's social interaction skills.

With the withdrawal of this funding these parents are very concerned as to how they will now be given some respite opportunities and how their children's social interaction will be developed. One can only imagine what a lifeline this programme must mean to them.

Consequently, this Council has decided to ask you to personally intervene in order to reinstate this much needed funding so that this crucial programme may be reinstated.

If you would find it of any assistance both this Council and Cookstown are willing to send a joint delegation to meet with you in order to clarify these issues.

We trust that you will give this matter every consideration.

Yours faithfully

J A McLaughlin
Chief Executive