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Website: unani.weebly.com

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster Council

25 June 2020

Dear Mr Tohill

UNITED NATIONS – 75th ANNIVERSARY

We would like to invite you and your Council to join us in marking the 75th anniversary year of the founding of the United Nations (UN) organisation, starting on 24 October 2020.

The United Nations Association of Northern Ireland (UNA-NI), a branch and region of UNA-UK, is a non-governmental, voluntary organisation. We exist to encourage public and governmental support for the goals of the UN, to seek a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

We are in the process of organising ways to mark this incoming year and invite your Council to consider lighting up your civic buildings in UN blue on Saturday 24 October 2020.

In 2015 when we marked the UN's 70th anniversary, we invited each of the newly created local councils to hold a reception for local schools and to accept a commemorative copy of the UN Charter. All 11 Councils participated in this way, and while we would have wished to carry out similar and new activities this year, this will not be possible presently. We are, however, still keen to mark the 75th anniversary at a local level.

The UN Charter declared that 'We the Peoples of the United Nations determined:

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

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- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.'

We are inviting all 11 local Councils to mark the UN's 75th anniversary in this way, and we hope that you will agree to participate. We will raise awareness through local and social media. If you consider other ways in which you may be willing to promote this historic year, we would be pleased to hear from you. For more information, please contact me via UNA-NI's e-mail address: unassocni@gmail.com

Yours sincerely



Carol Conlin
Membership Secretary
UNA-Northern Ireland

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Andrew Bell
Youth Work Policy Team



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Councillor Cathal Mallaghan
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council

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Email: andrew.bell@education-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: TOF 1595

Date: 9 July 2020

Via email: Jennifer.Hobson@midulstercouncil.org

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2020 to Minister Weir in relation to extended funding provision for youth clubs and in particular clubs within Coalisland and Dungannon. Your letter has been passed to me for response.

With regard the Extended Provision funding scheme, I can confirm that this ended on 31 March 2020. However, in recognition of the current situation due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Education Authority (EA) Youth Service offered a limited extension up to 30 June 2020 to allow key issues to be addressed and for staff to be placed on notice where required.

I understand the EA held an information session regarding this with groups on 11 March 2020 which was attended by staff from Youth Clubs in Coalisland and Dungannon, and at which they were offered the opportunity to contact their Senior Youth Officer to discuss essential delivery including weekend provision. Should the Management Committees from either centre wish to discuss this further, they should contact Ryan McGee by emailing Ryan.McGee@eani.org.uk or by telephoning 0780 813 4038.

Although generic youth services were stood down in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, as directed by Minister Weir, groups have received funding for core staff salaries up to the end of June and a further 3 month cash allocation letter has been issued to guarantee staff salaries and inescapable costs in line with the agreed essential services plan, up to the end of September 2020.

Over the next month, the EA will notify groups of their full budget allocation for 2020-21, based on essential costs of delivery during the time of Covid-19 (April – September 2020) and historical patterns of Youth Service delivery from October 2020 to March 2021 based on a Service Level Agreement.

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I can assure you that the EA has continued to provide statutory support to those young people most at need during this time through initiatives including the START programme (supporting young people at risk from paramilitaries); FLARE (supporting young people experiencing mental health issues) and the Youth Online service (including Stay Connected which allows young people to self-refer for a range of support from youth workers).

Minister Weir has also agreed the EA undertake small group work, with targeted young people identified as at risk to themselves and/or to others; targeted outreach and detached work informed and supported by the PSNI to respond to youth at risk, with a focus on de-escalation of tensions, individual and small group work, and summer activities to be delivered by voluntary, community, private and uniform organisations.

Going forward and to ensure young people continue to be supported, the EA Youth Service are completing a survey with young people on the effects of Covid-19 which can be found at the attached link <https://bit.ly/3hscPA1>. They have commissioned research into this which will inform future needs based provision as Youth Services restart in September 2020. It is anticipated that funding will be made available to youth groups to support delivery of services based on the needs identified in this research and through stakeholder engagement. Groups will be informed of this in due course.

Finally, the EA's new funding scheme for regional and local youth services is currently being implemented. The Local Area Based specifications for Mid Ulster have been established through the development of a robust assessment of need and the local youth development plan for the area. This assessment of need was completed using desk based research and local and regional consultations, through surveys and focus groups and can be found at the following link <https://eanifunding.org.uk/local-assessment-of-need/>, with the 3 year development plan for the Mid Ulster found at <https://eanifunding.org.uk/local-youth-development-plans/>.

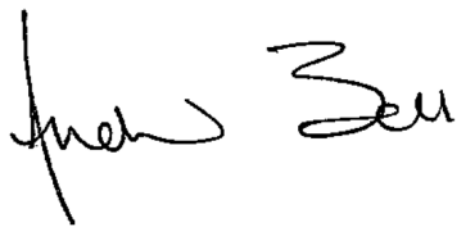
Specifications are in place for the Dungannon Town area and the Coalisland area and for further information on these specifications, groups can contact the Senior Youth Officer, Ryan McGee.

Should you have any further queries, or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Lynsey Branniff, EA Head of Local Youth Services by emailing Lynsey.Branniff@eani.org.uk or by telephoning 0777 544 6836.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Bell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andrew Bell
Youth Work Policy Team

**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Councillor Martin Kearney
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Your reference: C100/20
Our reference: INV-1329-2020
15th July 2020

Cllr Kearney

A29 COOKSTOWN BYPASS

Thank you for your letter dated 28th May requesting a meeting to discuss the A29 Cookstown Bypass.

While I am currently faced with serious and challenging budget constraints, I am committed to working to find solutions that deliver better for our communities and improve lives across Northern Ireland. In this respect, I recognise that many in the local community support the provision of a bypass of Cookstown. I am also fully aware of the benefits it would bring to the local area.

On 10 June 2020 I announced to the Assembly my intention to progress a number of strategic infrastructure and flagship projects as part of my plan to aid economic recovery and community transformation. I have now asked officials to push forward on the development of these important schemes, one of which is the A29 Cookstown Bypass. I have asked my officials to work at pace on the development of the scheme and to bring forward draft statutory orders for my consideration in the next financial year.

Given that scheme development is continuing, officials would be happy to facilitate a meeting to discuss the scheme.

Should you wish to meet with members of the project team, please contact David McKinley on 02882 254169 or email david.mckinley@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk if you would like to arrange a meeting.

I trust you find this response helpful

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Mallon', is positioned above the printed name.

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure