

# Voluntary **Action** Islington

**200a Pentonville Road**

**London N1 9JP**

**T 020 7832 5800 F 020 7832 5835**

**E [information@vai.org.uk](mailto:information@vai.org.uk)**

**W [www.vai.org.uk](http://www.vai.org.uk)**

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles, MP  
Department of Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

12<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Dear Mr Pickles

## **Planned reduction and proposed abolition of the Early Intervention Grant**

Voluntary Action Islington are writing to add our voice to concerns that have been raised about the planned reduction in the Early Intervention Grant by 17% in 2013/14 and the proposal to split the remaining grant with part going to the dedicated schools grant and the rest becoming one of the specific grants being rolled up into the general business rate settlement returning to local councils.

In Islington the Early Intervention Grant is used to provide many highly valued services delivered by both the statutory sector and voluntary organisations. There has been a high level of collaboration between different organisations to develop services that prevent problems becoming more severe, and more costly to deal with, at a later date.

Within the local voluntary sector there are Sure Start Children's Centres and centre services that are delivered by local voluntary organisations. Local voluntary organisations also deliver family support, services for disabled children and a range of provision for young people. In total there could be an adverse impact on up to 29 voluntary organisations in Islington as a result of the proposed changes. If there is no longer a specific allocation for early intervention our concern is that funds will get absorbed into other local government and school priorities and that funds aimed at prevention will be lost, jeopardising the work of many voluntary organisations that are already under a great deal of pressure to continue services when budgets are being cut and levels of need increasing.

I hope that these points will be considered and that the Early Intervention Grant will be maintained at the current level.

Yours sincerely

  
Mike Sherriff  
Chief Executive



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

Voluntary Action Islington previously known as  
Islington Voluntary Action Council. Charity Number 291890.  
**Patrons:** Jeremy Corbyn MP, Lord Smith of Finsbury, David Vandivier.  
**Chief Executive:** Mike Sherriff.  
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 1913555.