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**Assistant Director for  
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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010

Dear Mike

**Current Financial Position**

Like your members I am also concerned about the current financial position as reductions in expenditure in my budget will have an impact on vulnerable young people. I agree also that we need to work together and I thought that was what we were doing? I was not aware of the letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> February I understand that Henry will be writing directly to the organisations that we grant aid. I am also told that colleagues in the Youth Development Service have been talking to the organisations we support on the telephone during the budget setting process.

The Services for Young People budget in 2010/11 will be £16.6M a reduction of £1.8M on the £18.4M of the previous year. There will be no £1.1M cut to the Youth Development Service (YDS). Moving forward we plan to make no cuts in 2011/12 and then absorb the balance of our savings requirement in 2012/13. This approach of deferring savings during the transformation process rather than incremental cuts allows us to minimise the impact on front line services. This plan is of course as ever subject to the council's budget setting process.

I am aware of the Compact and abundantly aware of the impact of council decisions on the voluntary sector; we will always operate within the Compact – please do contact me if you think that is ever not the case. Communicating the changes is vital to our success; I think we should aim to meet with third sector partners to set out the transformation plan. I would be grateful if you would join me in chairing/hosting an event to do this in May 2010.

In relation to the Future Jobs Fund I can confirm that I am the senior responsible officer. We are in the process of recruiting an interim project manager who will write out to all partners once in post. The success of this project is dependant on the participation of your members they are crucial stakeholders that I expect the new PM to engage fully.

I am developing a business case for change that will radically change the youth sector in Surrey and mean huge opportunity for your members, please stick with me during this process I cannot do it without your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GS' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Garath Symonds  
**Assistant Director for Young People**