



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Maria Caulfield MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy*

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Iain Stewart MP

By email to: iain.stewart.mp@parliament.uk

19 April 2024

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 February on behalf of yourself and your co-signatory, Ben Everitt MP, about mental health services for young people in Milton Keynes. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in replying.

I appreciate the concerns that you have raised.

Given that this was a commercial process, we cannot say who was not successful in securing funding. However, if we run further tender schemes, providers could apply on a competitive basis to deliver services in Milton Keynes as they were able to for this tender. We also hope the evidence base we develop will inform local commissioners of the benefits of these services.

A competitive procurement process was undertaken to deliver funding to existing Early Support Hubs. Existing Hubs were chosen because this was the best way to enable services to be delivered and evaluated within the timescales of HM Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund, in order to build the evidence base underpinning such services over the next financial year. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) went live on 19 October and invited organisations across England to bid for a share of the funding, up to a maximum of £372,000 (incl. VAT). The funding will be used to at provide least 500 interventions per programme by April 2025.

The ITT closed on 6 November and we received 75 bids. The contracts were awarded exclusively based on the results of the tender evaluation and, for this reason, Ministers were not involved in any decisions about which specific hubs and regions were awarded funding.

I hope this reply is helpful. I would be grateful if you could share it with your co-signatory.

Yours sincerely,

MARIA CAULFIELD MP