

Mr Jim Hanna
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Dear Mr Hanna,

Belfast Youth Forum

I refer to your letter of the 25 February regarding the Belfast Youth Forum and seeking a nominee from the PHA.

I wonder can you provide clarity why you are seeking a nomination from the PHA to address the reports referenced in your letter. The PHA has already met with the Belfast Youth Forum regarding their reports and unfortunately the issues the young people wanted to campaign for were outside the remit of the PHA.

The areas the Youth Forum wanted to promote were around better access to Trust services in terms of addictions, trauma, children in crisis, Emergency Department and CAMHS, etc. None of the issues fall within PHA's duty or control and the fact the PHA was unable to answer or address their issues led to the young people feeling they weren't being listened or PHA was trying to avoid the issues. The situation became very tense and has done potential reputational damage to the PHA and the risk of further alienation of the young people. The Youth Forum did not want to focus on the prevention and early intervention services that fall within the remit of the PHA and nor did they fully appreciate the wider context that Health and Social Care is set in.



Could you provide clarity in terms of the purpose of the meeting (TOR if available), agenda, who else has been invited and expectations from the PHA if someone were to be invited?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Watts

Interim Chief Executive

Valene Watts