



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Graham Young
Education and Skills Funding Agency
Department for Education
FE Directorate
Sanctuary Buildings
Floor 1, Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Our Ref: HM/FM/117323

11 February 2019

Dear Mr Young,

Re: Dv8 at The Hive, St Leonards Road, Bexhill on Sea, TN40 1HS

I am writing to support local education provider, Dv8, whose future funding is being considered this week by ESFA following the Ofsted inspection of their services that took place last November.

I have read the Ofsted report and I am aware of the issues that were raised during the inspection which require immediate attention and improvement. However, I am also aware that Dv8 provides education opportunities to some of the most vulnerable students in my constituency. Bexhill has some of the most deprived wards in East Sussex.

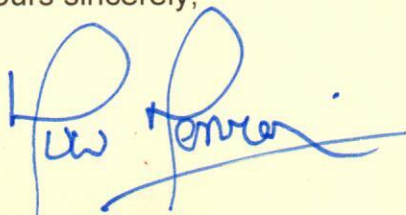
I understand that Dv8 have appealed the Ofsted grading and are awaiting a monitoring inspection. I have read their post Ofsted action plan and I have noted that their new Advisory Board has engaged the services of senior educational professionals to help them to implement the required improvements. I am also pleased to see that they have received the support of the East Sussex College Group who will be helping Dv8 to improve their quality.

Should Dv8 have to close, the only local specialist further education provision for young people who have complex needs will be lost. The levels of NEET in this area will rise as these students are highly likely to disengage from the education system altogether. Dv8 offers these young people the unique opportunity to learn skills in a supportive environment that cannot be replicated at other education settings.

It is for the above reasons that I believe Dv8 should be recognised as a niche education provider. I certainly consider that they should be given the opportunity to complete their appeals process with Ofsted and to implement the

improvements which are already underway before a final decision is made on their future funding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman'. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Huw Merriman
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle