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National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy for disabled young people

28 October 2024

Dear Ms Tweed,

I hope this letter finds you well.

In my last correspondence to the Committee on 31 May 2024, I notified of the forthcoming <u>publication</u> of analysis of responses to the Statement of Intent for the National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy for disabled young people, and set out plans to undertake wider solution-focussed engagement activity to understand what is working well and what could improve, in order to consider possible actions for the Strategy.

I am writing again to make you aware that the recent engagement period has now concluded. As the Committee is aware, the Scottish Government has remained steadfastly committed to co-developing the Strategy with those that it will affect and who can support its implementation. I am therefore delighted that, during this period of engagement, we have connected with over 500 people. This includes parents and carers, professionals and, crucially, young disabled people themselves.

I am deeply grateful for the extensive contributions made by attendees during these engagement sessions, and fully recognise the personal investment of those who took the time to share their lived and living experiences and views. I am now committed to ensuring that each and every response is given the consideration it deserves as we develop possible actions for the Strategy.

Allowing sufficient time to support the meaningful engagement and participation of those the Strategy will affect, including robust analysis of their views, and the importance of ensuring that the Strategy can be published alongside a range of accessible formats to meet the needs of those it aims to support, was reiterated by the External Strategic Working Group during a meeting held on 7 August 2024.

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With that in mind, the Group reviewed the aim of publishing the Strategy by the end of 2024 and concluded that publication in Spring 2025 would present a more favourable timeline to achieving this.

I hope the Committee will agree that this revision to our planned timescales will help to ensure that all due consideration can be given to the actions required to improve the lives - and meet the needs of - young disabled people across Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Don-Innes

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

