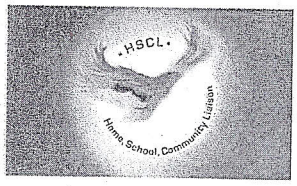

Finglas Home School Community Liaison Cluster,
Finglas,
Dublin 11.
8/11/10

Dear Minister Carey,

We, the Home School Co-Ordinators in Finglas would like to express our concern at the loss of the "Opt-In Youth Programme" and the impending loss of the " Back Up Family Support Programme". Both these programmes were facilitated by the Fingal Centre, which is committed to empowering the community of Finglas in combating poverty and social exclusion.

Our schools, over the past years, have benefited greatly from the impact of these programmes. Our youth and teenagers particularly have benefited but the impact of the programmes has also been extremely beneficial to their parents and the local community. Many teenagers would have left school early were it not for the help of the dedicated project workers running these projects.

We are all aware of the tough economic times we are living through but surely a case can be made for the most disadvantaged in society, especially our young people. We therefore ask that you could review the present situation and re-instate these valuable programmes as a priority.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Shaw
Edith [illegible]
Billy Boyle
John McDonnell
Fiona Sweeney
Marie O'Sullivan
Nessa McEvoy
N. N. Mhaddhainnaigh
Ann Martin
Stephanie Shelly
Helen Massey

Shay McGovern
Maria Stafford