

**PE1179/AA**

Ms Anne Peat  
Clerk to the Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Dear Ms. Peat

**Re: Public Petition on Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)**

Thank you for your correspondence regarding ABI and the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee request for information from ADSW on this issue.

You correctly indicated that ADSW has previously responded to the Public Petitions Committee in 2009 stating that Social Work Services were directed towards the needs of individuals following an assessment of needs, not directed towards people with specific conditions.

I have had the opportunity to raise this issue again with members within ADSW and I can report that most Social Work Services continue to operate on the basis of service delivery following an assessed need. This applies to both service users and carers.

However, I am able to advise you of one particular area of practice where a dedicated Acquired Brain Injury service exists. The West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership has a dedicated Acquired Brain Injury service. The aim of this service is to develop community based integrated assessment and rehabilitation for brain injured individuals and their families. This service works to facilitate the smooth transition for individuals between hospital and community. The service is also committed to improving knowledge and understanding of ABI among service users, carers and professionals. The dedicated team includes both Social Work and Psychology and attempts to deliver a holistic care package for each service user. It is worth noting that this service is provided in partnership and works alongside other specialist services such as Headway and Momentum.

The key component of this service is the development of a peer support group which is well established with 40 active members who work to support each other in the West Dunbarton area.

This service is available to people living within the West Dunbarton area between 16 and 65 years of age and who have received a brain injury. Linked to this project is a collection of experiences, advice and stories from people who have experience of ABI. This is in the form of written material and the contributors are those people who have an acquired brain injury and use the West Dunbarton ABI service. This work has been supported by a Development Worker from an organisation called Outside the Box who is funded by West Dunbartonshire Council.

The Strategy and Planning Manager at West Dunbartonshire CHCP is Wendy Jack and I have included her details as follows :-

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I hope this information is of assistance to you and if you require further information about this or other services please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

**Kenny Leinster**  
**Chair of ADSW Standing Committee**