



Our Ref PAs/PEM/lett12/1605Public Petition ABI
Your Ref

16 May 2012

Ms Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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LP-3 - ABERDEEN 3

Dear Ms Wilson

Public Petition on Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) - PE 1179

Thank you for your correspondence regarding ABI and the Scottish Parliament Public Committee request for information from all local authorities on how they each provide social care and support for people with ABI.

The context and direction for service provision is set out in the Acquired Brain Injury Strategy for Grampian 2011-2016.

Through this strategy, a Lead Senior Manager for Brain Injury has been appointed to lead the Grampian Managed Care Network (MCN). The MCN consists of representatives from NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils, Momentum, the Brain Injury Grampian Group, service users and family carers. The purpose of the strategy and the work undertaken by the MCN implementing the actions from the strategy, is to improve the lives of people with an acquired brain injury and their carers in Grampian.

The MCN links with the Scottish Acquired Brain Injury Managed Clinical Network and organisations, such as the Scottish Head Injury Forum.

Each of the three local authority areas has established a local brain injury managed care network. The network consists of local health and social care practitioners along with colleagues from Momentum.

The local MCN's focus on ensuring that the needs of people with ABI being discharged from hospital are considered in advance of discharge, and that the necessary health and social care services are in place. Practitioners work closely with NHS staff at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Woodend Hospital and Craig Court which is a purpose built stroke, brain and spinal injury rehabilitation and residential care unit in Aberdeen

Social care service provision is based on an individual assessment of needs undertaken by a Care Manager in collaboration with other professionals, in partnership with the person with ABI

and their family. Services provided can include home care, occupational therapy and telecare as well as services commissioned from Third Sector organisations, particularly Momentum. Momentum provides a range of services including care and advice for people at home, support for family carers and the Pathways programme offers specialist training and support for adults with a brain injury who want to return to work or further education.

We also recognise that people with ABI require specialist services e.g. for short breaks/respite care or residential care so we commission these services from appropriate organisations such as Sue Ryder.

Care Managers encourage people with ABI and their families to consider self directed support as a means of providing more personalised and appropriate support. In Aberdeenshire, we have been piloting In Control as an alternative way of service users having greater control over the resources they need to meet their needs.

We envisage that the duties for local authorities through the Self Directed Support Bill will further enable people with ABI to receive care and support with varying degrees of control, either by themselves or through the support of a Care Manager

We recognise the immense amount of work that unpaid carers provide in supporting a family member with ABI and the Care Managers encourage carers to access the range of support that is available to them. Generic carer support is available through the service we commission from VSA and support specific to carers of people with ABI is provided through Momentum's Transition service and the Brain Injury Grampian group.

We encourage carers to recognise the benefits of having flexible and regular breaks and we ensure that carers are accessing the Scottish Government Time to Live funding available through Shared Care Scotland and our local carers support organisation.

I hope that this information provides you with a picture of how Aberdeenshire Council along with our NHS colleagues and relevant Third Sector organisations are providing social care and support for people with ABI and their families.

Yours sincerely

Iain Ramsay
Social Work Manager (Older People & Disabilities)