

PE1179/KK

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PETITION PE1179 ON ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (ABI)

Dear Alison

Thank you for your letter of 17 April 2012, requesting a response from the Scottish Government for the Public Petitions Committee following its meeting on 20 March 2012. The Committee is seeking a response to the comments made by John Wilson during the discussion in relation to:

- The petitioner's concerns that 'the social care side of treatment and support is lagging far behind the clinical side'
- The petitioner 'does not recognise a similar strategic approach (as with the clinical side) being taken on by Social Care providers.'
- The petitioners' 'hopes that similar progress can be made for Social Care as it was by the MCN for ABI in setting standards etc...'

As we have previously advised, our view remains that the work of the ABI Managed Clinical Network (ABI MCN) provides the best mechanism for addressing the petitioner's concerns and offers the opportunity for BrainIAC's involvement in the future development of services.

The ABI MCN sub group is scoping the potential for evolving into a Care network and includes representation from the Association of Directors of Social Work. As you are aware, this work is in its early stages.

It is important to recognise that the transition from health to social care services is complex and that it will take time to realise the improvements in the provision of social care that we all wish to see.

An initial part of the work being taken forward by the ABI MCN is to carry out a baseline survey of existing social care services and needs for people living with ABI. The results of the survey will be presented to the sub group for it to consider the next steps and recommendations.

However, in addition to the work of the ABI MCN, the Petitions Committee will be aware that a national consultation was launched on Tuesday 8 May, regarding the Scottish Ministers proposals for the Integration of Health and Social Care. The consultation sets out the proposals to inform and change the way that the NHS and Local Authorities work together and in partnership with the third and independent sectors. Proposals include changes to how adult health and social care services are planned and delivered, which aims to achieve a seamless experience from the perspective of the patient, service user or carer. It also outlines improvements to integrating health and social care services which are not limited to older people, but extend to all adult health and social care services.

The consultation provides an opportunity for public and professional scrutiny of Ministers' plans for integration of adult health and social care and can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/05/6469>. We would encourage the petitioner to take part.

I hope the information in this letter, the terms of which have been approved by the Minister for Public Health, will be of assistance to the Committee in its further consideration of the Petition.

Yours sincerely

Craig Bell