

PE1179/LL

South Lanarkshire Council Letter of 15 May 2012

Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Wilson

Consideration of Petition PE1179

We are responding to your call for information relating to a petition by Helen Moran, on behalf of the Brain Injury Awareness Campaign on acquired brain injury. Our response is attached below.

If you have any queries about our response, please contact Mark Rushworth, team leader - Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment service, either by phone on 01698 307572 or by email: mark.rushworth@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Hutchison

Head of Adult and Older People Services

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1179 QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Public Petitions Committee is currently considering the above petition on Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). The Committee received information from the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW) which highlighted the approach taken in West Dunbartonshire in relation to the provision of social care and support for people with ABIs (PE1179/AA on the petition web page). The Committee now wishes to hear from all local authorities on how they each provide social care and support for people with ABIs.

South Lanarkshire Council Response to Public Petition PE1179 – Acquired Brain Injury Social Care and Support Services

There is no dedicated service for people with Acquired Brain Injury in South Lanarkshire, however, through its mainstream service, the Council works closely with partners to ensure multidisciplinary / multiagency approach to the care management of people with acquired brain injury. SLC provides social care and support to people with acquired brain injuries and their carers following a comprehensive needs led assessment with an outcomes based approach, taking into account physical, cognitive, and psychosocial factors. Such services offered may include non-specialist rehabilitation and occupational therapy through the Supporting Your Independence (reablement) agenda, the provision of assistive equipment or environmental adaptations to maximise independence and functional ability, provision of respite services, and home care assistance with aspects of personal care and daily living.

In addition to the above, SLC offers a specialised Brain Injury service with a rehabilitative focus. The aim of the service is to improve function for service users and to assist with developing coping strategies both for daily living and in preparation for returning to the work environment. Assessment and intervention is conducted within the service user's own home. Following assessment, if appropriate, work is undertaken to link with existing employment services and disability employment advisors. In certain circumstances, the therapist can assist with phased return to work, employer education, work place advice and advice regarding adjustments to duties and responsibilities.

In general, supports offered may include –

- Cognitive and functional assessment
- Education about brain injury
- Support to practice and integrate cognitive strategies into daily life and activities
- Promote and increase independence within the home and in the community.
- Support and advice for those with mild / moderate emotional and behavioural issues

- Education / advice for family / carers, where appropriate
- Input to retain employment

The service has a multidisciplinary / multiagency approach, routinely liaising with health colleagues, mental health services, substance misuse teams, criminal justice teams and voluntary providers. The service has developed a close working relationship with Headway enabling the sharing of information, education of service users and carers; and signposting to other agencies and support services. Some examples of joint working with Headway include public awareness days and interagency referrals.

Recently South Lanarkshire Council has been working in collaboration with NHS Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire Council in the implementation of a modernised NHS brain injury service. The proposed service redevelopment offers opportunities for closer integration of each partner agency and aims to provide a flexible responsive community based rehabilitation service. It is anticipated that this service will accept suitable patients / service users who are currently only able to have their needs met by admission to a specialist residential based rehabilitation service; thereby shifting the balance from in-patient to a community based service provision. This means that an increased number of brain injury survivors who have a wider range of needs will be able to access the new rehabilitation service. With the prospect of closer multidisciplinary and interagency working, it is expected that there will be improved continuity of care from health based services resulting in better outcomes for service users.