

PE1418/G

Children and Families Directorate

Early Years and Social Services Workforce Division

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Stuart Todd
Assistant Clerk
Scottish Parliament
Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Edinburgh
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Your ref:
Our ref:
9 July 2012

Dear Stuart

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1418](#)

Thank you for your letter dated 2 July in relation to the above petition.

Petition by Katherine Alexander calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to compel all local authorities to ensure that all social work management posts are held by professionally trained and accountable registered social workers.

You have asked the Scottish Government to respond to two further issues raised by the Committee at their meeting on 29 May that:

- The Committee draws the Scottish Government's attention to the petition and written responses from the Scottish Social Services Council, the Care Inspectorate, COSLA, Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and the Association of Directors of Social Work. The Committee requests that the working group on social work complaints procedure consider the issues raised by the petitioner along with the other consultation responses.
- In light of the submissions received and the concerns raised by the petitioner regarding the responsibility of local authorities and accountability of its officers, what specific safeguards exist to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults in the delivery of social services when the social service provision has been contracted out?

I can confirm that a copy of the petition and the written responses have been forwarded to the relevant policy team within Scottish Government dealing with the review of social work complaints. The papers will be passed to the working group, when set up, to be considered along side the consultation responses.

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As I have previously indicated, the effective delivery of social services is key to protecting the most vulnerable in society and local authorities have a statutory duty to deliver these services within a framework set out in legislation and guidance.

Under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, local authorities are under a statutory duty to establish Adult Protection Committees with functions relating to the safeguarding of adults who are at risk of harm. Where local authorities commission and/or procure delivery of services from other providers, the decision they reach must deliver the intended outcomes and comply with all applicable legislative requirements both domestic and European.

The Care Inspectorate is responsible for the registration and inspection of providers of social services. They have procedures in place by which a service user, carer or family member may make complaints directly to it in relation to the provision of a care service.

The Scottish Government is content that there is sufficient legislation and guidance in place to support local authorities to carry out their statutory duties.

I hope the information in this letter, the content of which has been approved by the Minister for Children and Young People, will be of assistance to the Committee in its continuing consideration of the Petition.

Yours sincerely

Diane White
Social Services Workforce Team