

PE1470/R

David Stewart MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

4 June 2013

Dear Mr Stewart

Re: Petition PE01470

I have been approached by several of my constituents asking me to support Lauren King MSYP's Young Carers Grant Petition.

I would like to take this opportunity to lend my support to any initiative that seeks to assist young carers in their daily lives. Carers save the Scottish economy hugely and do a fantastic role in my constituency, and many others, very often to their own detriment.

My constituents – many of whom are carers themselves – have advised me that their role as carer often comes before their education, their own employment, and of course, their social life, which every young person should enjoy.

As well as looking after the cared-for person – a huge responsibility for any young person - carers are depended upon for getting younger siblings to school and for juggling the household finances. These are just some of the challenges that they face. Perhaps most concerning is the fact that the young person is not always known to the local authority as a carer, the result of which means that too many children fall under the radar, which, of course, has a very obvious impact on their own health and wellbeing.

I understand that you are currently considering this petition and would appreciate if you could consider my comments when doing so.

Yours sincerely

John Pentland MSP
Motherwell & Wishaw