



By email: [petitions@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:petitions@scottish.parliament.uk)  
Stuart Todd  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Todd

**RE: Petition PE1470**

Thank you for your email of 21 May asking for views on aspects of Petition PE1470, which "*Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to establish a Young Carer's Grant for carers in full-time education or under the age of 18*". Please see below for Renfrewshire Council's response to the specific questions asked of Local Authorities.

- **What are your views / experience on the issues raised in the petition?**

Renfrewshire Council welcomes efforts to support young and young adult carers to achieve the same life opportunities as their peers. We would agree that financial support for carers is vital and would welcome the introduction of a grant; however we would see this as one element of the support carers receive, alongside that for the cared for person and their family. We would welcome new initiatives which take a holistic approach to supporting carers including, rather than focusing on, the financial impact of caring.

The petition highlights that Educational Maintenance Allowance can be "cut off or stopped for a period...due to poor attendance". This underlines one of the most important steps in supporting young and young adult carers; that all services should have policies and practices in place which enable the identification of young carers as early as possible. When young people are recognised as carers, their needs should be considered and appropriate support provided to ensure that their education and life chances are not affected as a result of their caring role. Locally, Renfrewshire Carers Centre's Young Carers Education worker raises awareness and understanding of young carers and the issues they face with school staff and pupils and seeks to increase identification of carers in schools.

- **How well do the policies aimed at supporting the needs of young carers work in practice?**

In Renfrewshire young and young adult carers are supported through a partnership approach which is set out in Renfrewshire's Carers' Strategy. The young and young adult carers section of the strategy was developed in partnership with carers who were consulted throughout the process. The strategy sets out a number of actions and outcomes, which will support and identify young carers. These include the provision of information, advice, training

and assessment and are these are based on the principles of Getting It Right for Every Child/Young Carers and the wellbeing indicators.

There are a number of local projects in Renfrewshire which support young and young adult carers, these are mainly delivered through Renfrewshire Carers Centre and funded by the Council and CHP. There is a young carer group and a young adult carer group where carers can get information, advice and general support. Young and young adult carers can also access training which is relevant to their caring situation. Consultation during the development of the Carers Strategy clearly showed how much carers value these services. The involvement of the voluntary sector in supporting carers is an important factor in encouraging carers to access services and the continued support from the Government is vital in this.

I trust that the information provided gives a good picture of how we support young and young adult carers in Renfrewshire and we would welcome any new initiatives and developments, including financial, which will achieve positive outcomes for carers.

Yours sincerely

**Dorothy Hawthorn**

Social Work, Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice