



Mr. Chris Hynd
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH9 1SP

Scottish Youth Parliament
Gordon Lamb House
3 Jackson's Entry
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

1 November 2013

Dear Mr. Hynd,

Re: Responses to Public Petition PE1471

Having now received the responses from all NHS boards in Scotland and several other organisations, I would like to thank each of them and the Committee for taking the time to look over and consider the petition. The advice, information and support provided within the responses have provided us with further valuable knowledge about how each of the services operates.

When submitting this petition our aim was to improve the care of young people particularly between the ages of 16-25 in hospitals and we continue to work to this target. The responses have given us a much clearer understanding of how individual services for young people aged 13-16 run in each area. Some additional information was provided about young people aged 18-25. I feel that there is difference in terms of need between these age brackets, but also between those aged 18-25 and adults. Young people aged 18-25 are young adults still developing, and have their own needs as well.

The information is both very valid and useful to us as an organisation and individually as MSYPs. For this, we are very grateful. Knowing that young people are being involved, through consultation, in the planning of the services that will be provided in the newly built hospitals in both Glasgow and Edinburgh is very important. As an organisation, we strive to make sure their voices are heard in decisions that directly affect them. Having the recreational area that is planned is very important as even just providing a space for young people is a welcome escape from the ward and being stuck in bed.



Not only does the *Better Health, Better Care Plan 2009* highlight and outline the needs of young people, but also what they are entitled to, and reminding service providers of this, I believe, is important in making sure it is implemented. However, many services providers have stated that staff must have certain training when working with children and young people on children's ward but not necessarily for young people who are located in adult wards, and this should be extended. I strongly feel that the training in understanding and working with young people that is presently available should be mandatory.

Whilst I appreciate that some of these matters are at the discretion of health boards, and not the Government and Scottish Parliament, I feel that if we accept that young people have a right to public services that meet their needs, and that is our goal, the Government and Scottish Parliament should look at this in further detail.

All service providers have provided us with great responses with information on the treatment of young people on their wards but they have not included anything in relation to their accident and emergency departments. This is a great concern for young people and I would like to have some information on what services are provided for young people entering and being treated in A&E.

I acknowledge that records show consistent stays in hospital but shorter time periods, but I struggle to agree with this being relevant to the decision not have any dedicated services being provided. As stated above, we aim for better all round care for young people within a hospital setting whether it is for 30 minutes or 30 days. Records from services providers that do provide for 16-25 show positive results in young peoples' treatment and progress.

Whilst we acknowledge that in some situations, young peoples' hospital wards may not be possible for operational reasons, I feel that in these cases, recreational areas where young people can meet and socialise should be provided. In addition, whilst I welcome that there is training available for staff in terms of working with young people on children's' wards, it should be extended to staff working with young people on adult wards. I also feel that this should be mandatory. However, in larger hospitals, I still believe that dedicated services should and could be a reality, and we should strive to ensure this is the case.



We appreciate all responses, information and support each of the services providers have issued. I would also like to thank the Committee for their continued support and work on what I believe to be a very important petition for young people and their ability to avail of public services that cater to their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Rachael McCully

(MSYP for East Kilbride