

PE1471/R

Shetland NHS Board

Public Health Department
Brevik House
South Road
LERWICK
Shetland ZE1 0TG



Telephone 01595 743340
Fax 01595 695200

Andrew Howlett
Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Date 17th July 2013
Your Ref
Our Ref ST/KG

Enquiries to Dr Sarah Taylor
Extension 3072
Direct Line 01595 743072
E-mail sarah.taylor1@nhs.net

Dear Mr Howlett

Consideration of Petition [PE1471](#) on Young People's Hospital Wards

In response to the letter requesting views on the Petition [PE1471](#):

to establish specific young people's wards or rooms in hospitals for adolescents, and to ensure that staff receive adequate training to support young people's mental and emotional needs in hospital.

NHS Shetland's response is as follows:

We understand that the needs of children and young people differ from those of the adult population, and that their needs should be considered when admitted to hospital. We support the call for specific wards or rooms for adolescents but recognize that this needs to take account of the local context, both geographical and service. For instance in the Island context of Shetland, NHS Shetland does not have a Children's hospital nor a paediatric ward or paediatric medical staff within its local Remote and Rural General Hospital. Children and young people are admitted as emergencies for assessment and initial treatment, and for planned day care, and will be looked after in a single room wherever possible. Any children / young people requiring more than an overnight stay, or needing more specialist services, will be transferred off island to mainland services. The small numbers of children and young people treated, and the availability of only generic adult staff at most times, will limit the specialist service that could be provided.

We have nursing staff trained in paediatrics and experienced in the care of young people who support the care of young people in hospital locally, and an ongoing programme of staff training and development, so we will welcome national programmes developing training for this particular age group, and have noted with interest NHS Orkney's experience of trialling the NES training resource.

We have also noted with interest the response from NHS Grampian since the majority of off-island care for this age-group from Shetland is through the Aberdeen

Children's Hospital and we welcome their plans to strengthen and develop their service response to adolescents.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sarah Taylor
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

cc. Mr Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland.