

PE1548/CC

Scottish Government letter of 15 February 2017

Thank you for your letter of 20 January following the Public Petitions Committee's meeting on 19 January, which discussed the above petition. I read the most recent responses from the petitioner and Dr Brodie Paterson from CALM with interest, and I am happy to provide an update on the publication of the 'communication passport' and provision of the 'toolkit' for practitioners as referred to in the Scottish Government's letter of 29 November.

Officials from Education Scotland have committed to publishing a 'Communication Passport' tool developed by Beth Morrison on the Glow network as an example of good practice in supporting children with complex additional support needs. The 'Communication Passport' will be signposted in 'Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusions' (IEI2) and will be part of a suite of documents that will be published to support schools and local authorities with the implementation of IEI2. The guidance and supporting documents will be published simultaneously.

In 2014, the Scottish Government published updated 'National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland', including 'Additional notes for practitioners: protecting disabled children from abuse'. Alongside this, WithScotland and the Scottish Government's Ministerial Working Group on Child Protection and Disability published a Child Protection and Disability Toolkit, designed to help professionals understand the issues and provide good practice guidance to supplement the National Guidance. This toolkit is a comprehensive training resource for practitioners in Scotland, and is freely available for download.

We will consider a refresh of the suite of Child Protection guidance following the implementation of the recommendations of the Child Protection Improvement Programme, and the conclusion of that programme.

I can also confirm that I am content to attend the Committee's next session on this petition on 20 April and I will be happy to address the other issues that have been outlined in your recent correspondence at that time.

I hope the above information is helpful.