

PE1568/L

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk of the Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



8 September 2015

Petition PE1568: Funding, access and promotion of the NHS Centre for Integrative Care

Dear Ms Fergusson,

I write in support of the above petition raised in relation to the Centre for Integrative Care (CIC) in Glasgow. This is an issue which has been raised with me by a number of members of the ALLIANCE, particularly in relation to concerns at the potential that many people who live with long term conditions are no longer referred to the CIC.

In 2013, the Scottish Government undertook a consultation on the provision of specialist residential chronic pain services in Scotland. Having consulted widely, with ALLIANCE members and other stakeholders through a range of chronic pain networking events across Scotland we heard from a number of participants who expressed their support for the unique role the Centre for Integrative Care.

Our members have also told us that the centre supports them in their right to live well by:

- Providing both treatments that people find beneficial in their holistic care and self management techniques that support and encourage people living with long term conditions to access information and to develop the skills to find out what is right for their condition and, most importantly, for them.
- Providing integrated services which focus on a person centred approach and allow, for example, for additional time between the individual and a health professional.

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This type of support has a valuable role to play as a resource for people who live with long term conditions to learn about, and act upon, approaches such as self management that are critical to meeting the growing challenge of long term conditions. Therefore, we wish to add our support to this petition and its aims.

Regards

Ian Welsh
Chief Executive
Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)

cc. Co-Convenors CPG Chronic Pain

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