

PE1418/F

Association of Directors of Social Work Letter of 9 May 2012

Dear Members of the Public Petitions Committee

Response by ADSW to PETITION PE1418

Petition by Katherine Alexander calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to compel all local authorities to ensure that all social work management posts are held by professionally trained and accountable registered social workers.

ADSW strongly disagrees with the intention of the petition that all social work management posts should be held by social work professionals and disputes the claim that there are insufficient safeguards in the employment practices of local authorities which put vulnerable people at risk.

Each local authority will put in place a management team and structure that suits its particular needs and working practices. Each local authority employs a chief social work officer who is responsible for important decisions made by staff within local authority on matters relating to social work. The Chief social work Officer post is a senior post within councils and can only be held by a social work professional.

The Scottish Social Services Council is responsible for the registration and regulation of the social work workforce and will intervene where conduct and professional judgement are in question.

Other non-social work qualified persons working with local authorities on social work duties are accountable and answerable to the codes of conduct of that local authority.

For these reasons, we do not consider there to be a loophole that puts vulnerable adults at risk.

We do however appreciate that there will be a need to further consolidate and strengthen the role of the social worker with the advent of further integration between health and social work.

ADSW
May 2012