

13.06.2013

Response to replies to my petition PE 1460

Health Improvement Scotland

This is a better response than what we first received but they still fail to answer the main questions I stated at the top of the page which was that, I was specifically concerned of the fact at no point has anyone in an official bodies considered what impact lack of progress on chronic pain help is having on patients, their families and carers. Not a mention of how, by not providing appropriate treatment or service, this breaches the public sector Equality Duty, Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I have not addressed some of the things in the letter as Dorothy Grace Elder replied separately holding them to account for the things she raised at the time so no need for me to raise this.

I am also hoping now since we have had our meeting that we can move forward productively for the benefit of the patients, carers and their families who have been let down to date by the services provided.

So I thank John Glennie for his response

Scottish Government

Once again this letter is far better than the first reply we received am not quite sure that they totally understood what I meant by the Equality legislation as it was not really to do with the discrimination as the minister mentions but more by not having the right treatment and left to suffer in pain was a form of torture under all the acts listed, patients were discriminated against by not having the same access to services that other patients from other health boards.

Patients being sent to bath were discriminated against by poverty as some had to refuse the service because they could not afford to go, some boards cover the cost of flights up front while others do not, and it is only the flights that are covered not the hefty costs of the taxi to the airport or from the airport to Bath itself. So the discrimination I was talking about was for people who did NOT have money therefore making it a service for only those who could afford it.

I am very pleased to be on the new committee as it will allow me to ensure that we include the good practices from the Bath model but more importantly exclude the medical model approach to the re enablement programmes they provided by pushing for Independent living skills and person centred care which puts the person in the driving seat and enables and empowers them to change their own lives.

I was also re assured by the meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing Alex Neil, HIS and the Scottish Government and totally understand it is work in progress and will take time but at least now it is moving in the right direction and was pleased they are redressing The Mental Health Strategy for Scotland: 2012-2015 as this is something else that needs to be redressed.

So I thank Michael Matheson for this response.

Pain Concern & Pain Association Scotland

I have no comments to make on behalf of funding for either Pain Concern or Pain Association Scotland as they did not even display the petition on either of their websites or inform their members. Pain association Scotland said they never knew anything about it and had received no information and Pain Concern told me they would not be supporting my petition as they would not support my recommendations for a Scottish Centre.

Susan Archibald
Petitioner