



Mr. Chris Hynd
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH9 1SP

Scottish Youth Parliament
Gordon Lamb House
3 Jackson's Entry
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

17 January 2014

Dear Mr. Hynd,

Re: Responses to Public Petition PE1471

On behalf of the Scottish Youth Parliament I would first like to thank you for considering our petition further.

After reading the response from the Scottish Government to our petition, we acknowledge and appreciate the steps taken to remind NHS Services/Boards of the targets and outlined in the NDP and *Better Health Better Care* plans.

Having said this, we would like to highlight that the focus of our petition is young people aged 16-25 for reasons outlined in the petition itself. The targets and plans set up by the Government and NHS Boards currently only really benefit young people aged 15-16 with improvements for up to 18s. Young people are a recognised group in society which means to the age of 25; an almost 10 year gap from those who benefit from the tailored services implemented for young people.

There is still work to be done on improving services for this age group and we will continue to work on this as we see it as crucial for the treatment of the young people in question.

In the children and young people specialist services it states "An Action Framework for Children and Young People's Health in Scotland, which sets out a ten-year action plan to assist hospital and community-based health services to respond to the challenges of improving and maintaining children's health in the 21st Century". The key word here is "*children's*". It mentions young people but doesn't specify to say young people's health services provision, only children. Crucially, this fails to recognise an important distinction in NHS health service provision. We feel that the distinction between young people and children is health service



provision is vitally important and must be recognised when implementing these strategies and frameworks for improving the way in which services are provided.

With tried and tested services already proven to successfully improve young people's health services in the wider UK, such as the Teenage Cancer Trust and the unit in UCLH, there is a precedent and therefore significant room for improvement in Scotland.

We have received a lot of support from various organizations and individuals during the process of developing the petition and submitting it. This petition carries the weight of support from Scotland's young people. We hope you that you will continue to consider how this can be taken forward from a national perspective.

Yours sincerely,

Rachael McCully

(MSYP for East Kilbride)