

PE1471/C

Comments about Petition PE1471

The Child and Adolescent Faculty of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland strongly support this petition.

We have looked at the petition and agree with the issues raised. Adolescent wards in Paediatric settings have been an area for discussion for some years with however little change in service provision.

The model of adolescent specialist units in mental health works well as young people's developmental needs are more appropriately cared for in these settings. This arrangement would be an advantage for young people with physical health needs also. A more holistic approach to young people's health needs would be promoted.

Age range parameters for physical health services in mental health differ from physical health services. There are also different age boundaries in education and social work services. These differences can be confusing for young people and their families and there is the risk of duplication or falling through the gap in service. This area needs a thorough review to rationalise transitions and services for young people across agencies and within the NHS.

However there are costs involved in increasing the age range of children's services to include adolescents. This involves training, manpower and physical space in wards but it will improve young people's health.

We acknowledge the complexity of the task, with a wide range of paediatric facilities needing to make provision in different ways. The key is to have an adolescent focus where required.

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4th April 2013