

PE1471/F

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Letter of 5 April 2013



Petition PE1471

NHSGGC are positive in our response to age appropriate facilities and would seek to replicate age appropriate standards (as well as specialist standards such as cardiac safe and sustainable and teenage cancer). The standard of care being developed in NHSGGC is that all under 16's are treated on Paediatric wards and 16 to 18 year olds are given the choice of admission to either paediatric or adult wards. Adolescents need to be considered differently from children and adults. Discussion of adolescent provision has been part of the process of designing the new Children's Hospital in Glasgow. Many young people prefer a ward based environment to single rooms and this will be taken into account.

In discussion of the petition, Mr Carlaw raised concerns about sub-specialities having to split all wards into adolescent areas. It is important to note that the dedicated adolescent ward at University College Hospital London operates successfully across sub-specialties. This model could be explored in paediatric hospitals in Scotland, with benefits in particular for young people who have conditions that require input from more than one sub-specialty and especially those whose disorders are chronic and require repeated admission.

We provide training in adolescent care and staff can access training such as RCPCH Adolescent Health. We also employ adolescent workers generic and specialist specific. Caring for adolescents requires adequate training that includes the understanding of adolescent emotional well being and mental health. Meeting the educational, emotional and mental health needs of adolescents in hospital supports good physical health outcomes and reduces risk. This care can only be provided by staff with suitable training and experience. Additional resources would always assist in helping to develop and improve good adolescent services.

NHSGGC also has, in paediatric cancer, a consultant with special interest in adolescent cancer care with shared responsibilities to the Beatson Oncology Unit.

The Paediatric Liaison Psychiatry team and Paediatric Psychology services embedded in paediatric services at Yorkhill contribute to the development of good care for young people, bringing mental health expertise and adolescent experience into the Children's Hospital. Staff involved would be happy to be consulted further in relation to this petition.