

PE1471/I

British Medical Association Scotland Letter of 9 April 2013

Dear Andrew

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1471](#)

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to establish specific young people's wards or rooms in hospitals for adolescents, and to ensure that staff receive adequate training to support young people's mental and emotional needs in hospital.

Thank you for your email inviting BMA Scotland to comment on the above petition. The BMA is very supportive of the call. Often it is inappropriate for adolescents to be in adult wards with frail elderly often confused patients – something which will get worse with the demographic shifts in the population and it is not appropriate for these patients to be in paediatric wards with patients much younger. It also need to be clear who should look after these patients – adult physicians or paediatricians.

The new proposed draft legislation on provision for children and young people with special educational needs, which applies to England and Wales only, includes a new single assessment process for those with special needs and a combined Education, Health and Care Plan from birth to 25, a published 'local offer' of available services, and, a right for parents to be given, if they wish, a personal budget to meet their child's needs. This should be recognised in inpatient healthcare provisions too.

I understand that colleagues in paediatric liaison psychiatry in Scotland would also want to give strong support to this initiative and will respond separately.

Best wishes

Helen Reilly
Public Affairs Officer
BMA Scotland