

**PE1471/L**

**Children and Families Directorate**  
Child and Maternal Health Division

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Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
Public Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



12 April 2013

Dear Mr Howlett

### **CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1471**

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2013 seeking the Scottish Government's views on the above petition and requesting a response to its consideration by the Public Petitions Committee on 1 March 2013.

The Scottish Government is fully committed to ensuring that the NHS in Scotland delivers high quality, safe and patient-centred care to all patients every time they access healthcare services. The national policy position within which NHS Scotland is expected to deliver hospital services for young people is outlined in the document "Better Health, Better Care: Hospital Services for Young People in Scotland" which was published in April 2009 and can be accessed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/05/07130749/0>.

As the Committee noted at their meeting of 1 March, the guidance recognised the importance of ensuring that young people are able to access facilities and patterns of care that take specific account of their particular needs. NHS Scotland is committed to moving the upper age limit for its children's hospital services from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, with some flexibility up to 18 years. That change will be fully implemented once the new hospitals in Edinburgh and Glasgow are completed.

This guidance was a commitment contained within the National Delivery Plan for Children and Young People's Specialist Services in Scotland (NDP) which was launched as guidance in 2009. The NDP was a three year plan (2009/11) with the aspiration for a pattern of specialist children's services that were sustainable and accessible, integrated and of high quality and well and wisely resourced. It has recurring investment of £19.5 million from 2011/12 to enable services to continue to improve.

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The NDP contained 4 specific commitments towards improving age-appropriate services all of which have been completed. These were:

- Publish separate guidance on hospital facilities for young people in Scotland
- Host a conference in Spring 2009, to promote discussion and raise awareness regarding hospital services for young people
- Undertake, through NHS Education Scotland, a Training Needs Analysis in regard to adolescent care
- Require all NHS Boards to ensure, by 2013, that all staff routinely dealing with young people have had appropriate training

I understand that you have asked NHS Education Scotland to comment on the Petition and it will provide you with a full response in relation to the educational needs of healthcare staff regarding training issues. I am able to advise that NHS Education Scotland developed an Adolescent Healthcare resource which has been available since 2011. In addition a new resource will be available in April entitled "Essential Shared Capabilities for staff working with children and young people" which includes adolescent scenarios.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**GILLIAN GARVIE**

Head of Children and Young People's Branch