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PE1471/P

Date: 25/06/13
Your Ref: **PE1471**
Enquiries to: Judy Thomson/ Pauline Beirne
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Dear Andrew,

RE: Consideration of Petition PE1471

The issue of transition for adolescents from Children and Young People's hospital ward settings to adult facilities poses significant challenges, since many of these young people will have been receiving care from a paediatric team who are well known to them and understand their needs. The need for adolescent specific facilities in both paediatric and adult hospitals was referenced in Better Health Better Care: Hospital Services for Young People (Scotland 2009) which noted the need for training and competence of staff delivering care to take cognisance of the specific needs of the adolescent.

The need for specific learning in relation to the management of physical and mental health in young people is well documented in the literature, and this resulted in the development of the Adolescent healthcare Resource by NHS Education for Scotland in collaboration with Edge hill University.

This resource was intended for paediatric staff working with adolescents as well as practitioners working in adult services receiving young people from paediatric facilities. Since the launch of the resource there has been extremely positive feedback from service managers and practitioners alike which suggests that the resource was an excellent support for staff working with adolescents.

In the previous 6 months to June 2013 the resource has been accessed by 12 new practitioners.

NES plans a new launch update to alert staff to the availability of the resource which should encourage higher uptake. We have made the resource available to other agencies in digital format, and it was written at SCQF levels 7 and 9 to meet the needs of the widest workforce. There is a need for further development of resources in relation to specific issues regarding transition. The Common Core (Scottish Government 2012) sets out the core knowledge skills



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and values for the children and young people's work force. These skills apply equally to the adult work force and future training should focus on communication and relationship building.

In addition the fast pace of change in legislation and policy relating to CYP requires careful consideration in insuring effective and safe service provision for young people. In particular the Children and Young People's Rights Bill (2013) sets out specific duties in relation to the Rights of Young People. NES is launching a new resource (June 2013) Meeting the needs of children, young people, their families and carers in Scotland :A learning resource based on The Ten Essential Shared Capabilities Getting it Right for Every Child. This scenario based resource includes 2 adolescent scenarios designed to challenge practitioners in relation to their management of issues relevant to the care of young people. This resource is intended for additional development to reflect the changing landscape for CYP.

In summary, the specific learning needs of practitioners in paediatric and adult services in relation to the care of adolescents are recognised. There is a need for further resources to support the development of a skilled competent and effective work force in the management of young people .The involvement of young people experiencing services in the development of any future resources would be essential.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Thomson
Director of Training for Psychology Services

Pauline Beirne
Educational Projects Manager (Child Health)