

**PE1471/S**

**Women and Children's  
Services Directorate**

Nithbank  
DUMFRIES  
DG1 2SD

Andrew Howlett  
Assistant Clerk  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Date: 17 July 2013  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: LW/CH  
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Dear Mr Howlett

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1471 – YOUNG PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL  
WARDS**

I have been passed your email and letter regarding the above from my colleague, Linda McKie. I took the opportunity to share the letter with senior managers in the Paediatric Department and would like to share our comments as follows.

- Specific provision for adolescents on children's wards is a good thing. In general NHS Dumfries and Galloway are not too bad at this at present but are limited by the physical organisation of our inpatient ward. We will be significantly better in the new hospital and have specifically thought about the implications for adolescents on our ward.
- We are also limited by our relatively low numbers of adolescents being admitted – making it uneconomic to provide a bespoke adolescent service. Our rooms need to be multi functional and suitable for children or older young people.
- The Paediatric Unit in NHS Dumfries and Galloway accepts patients after their thirteenth birthday (unless they are already known to the service). I know some centres do not take young people of this age,
- We suspect things are slightly different for young people over 16 who end up in adult medical and surgical wards and also for young people who end up in adult mental health facilities.
- CAMHS provides mental health assessment for young people within twenty four hour period of request.
- In terms of training, staff are well trained and knowledgeable in providing care for adolescent patients and adhere to good practice.
- GIRFEC key questions considered by staff at point of request for assistance.
- GIRFEC training and education will further enhance this approach.

Yours sincerely,

**LINDA WILLIAMSON**

General Manager – Women and Children's Services Directorate