

PE1471/W

Mr. Chris Hynd
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



27th August 2013

Dear Mr. Hynd,

Re: Responses to Public Petition PE1471

I would first like to thank everyone for their responses, it has given me a better knowledge of how each service is run.

The main aim of this petition is to better the care of young people particularly between ages 16-25 in hospitals. Many of the responses contained information on the adolescent care of young people between the ages of 13 and 16. While this information is both appreciated and useful for the Scottish Youth Parliament and its MSYPs, as this petition focuses primarily on 16-25 year olds I would like to know if the services provided in some of the responses mentioned are available to over 16s as it is unclear as to whether they are.

The training mentioned and the improvements and changes due to be made this year seem to focus on all children and young people which I believe is a great step forward for their care. I do however believe the training available should be mandatory for all staff involved in caring and treating 16-25 year olds.

Some of the responses made different points about the care of young people in smaller hospitals. I am not looking for them to provide these wards; however, I do think there is still room for services for this age group such as providing them with a single room or recreational area.

All the responses have given us a much wider picture of services provided for young people from the people caring for young people, which is vital. Having these wards in larger hospitals will add so much to their care, as outlined in previous responses and the original petition itself. I think there should be increased effort on ensuring staff are appropriately trained when caring for all age groups. This means making the modules available in caring for young people mandatory, making the relationship between staff and young people stronger and easier.

Within large and small hospitals, providing an area where young people can relax and socialise within their own age groups would make a large difference to young people's emotional wellbeing while staying in hospital. The petition, and my previous response, have outlined why the petition was put forward and is important, not only to myself and SYP, but to all young people across Scotland and the people providing and working with them.

Yours sincerely,

Rachael McCully MSYP