

**PE1545/D**

Scotland Excel Email of 5 May 2015

Dear Sigrid,

Scotland Excel is a non-profit making organisation funded by our participating local authority members. Our role is to ensure our procurement exercises reflect local authority requirements and Scottish Government policy and guidance related to the service and we do not take an independent view on or influence social care policy. On this basis, Scotland Excel has no comment on the merits of Petition PE1545 currently before the Public Petitions Committee.

The Committee however may be aware that Scotland Excel is currently undertaking a procurement exercise to establish a framework for the provision of care home services for adults with learning disabilities. This work is at the request of our local authority members and Scotland Excel holds no view on the merits or otherwise on whether residential care is the appropriate choice for *severely learning disabled children* as referenced in the petition.

Our role in the current procurement exercise is underpinned by “The Keys to Life”, the Scottish Government’s 10-year strategy for learning disability services. The rationale for the framework is contained in Recommendation 6 of “The Keys to Life”, which specifically recommends development of a national framework agreement to *“improve the quality and consistency of support for people with learning disabilities who have a long-term need for specialist residential care”*. The planned national framework agreement for care homes for adults with learning disabilities will be the first national agreement for this service category and represents an opportunity to contract with providers on nationally agreed terms and conditions. The framework seeks to encourage innovative approaches to promoting choice and control, increasing life choices and improving lifestyles for adults with learning disabilities, and supporting people to maintain or develop links with their preferred communities.

Regards,

Julie Welsh  
Director  
Scotland Excel