

Scottish Government letter of 27 July 2016

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1545](#)

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to recognise residential care as a way severely learning disabled children, young people and adults can lead happy and fulfilled lives and provide the resources to local authorities to establish residential care options for families in Scotland.

Following the Committee's consideration of the above Petition on 30 June 2016 you wrote asking for an update on progress. As highlighted in the Cabinet Secretary's letter of 1 December 2015, officials are working with the petitioner, Mrs Maxwell to explore different options on residential care. I write to give you an update as to how this work is progressing.

We are pleased to report that officials from Care, Support and Rights Division have met with Mrs Maxwell on two occasions 8 December 2015 and 4 February 2016 where the petitioner, with other stakeholders were invited to contribute to a commissioned piece of work to identify suitable alternatives to out-of-area placements in Scotland.

This commissioned 2 year project is currently underway and will look at the range of opinions across Scotland with a particular focus on people with complex needs. The project will also help to inform developing work on a national framework for Positive Behaviour Support and how guidance will impact on commissioning agreements.

There are three main phases to the work of the project:

1. Quantitative analysis: identify numbers and profiles of adults and young people with complex needs who are Out Of Area or Delayed Discharge. This first piece of work will be completed by February 2017.
2. Qualitative analysis: understand the issues impacting on either Out Of Area or Delayed Discharge. This piece of work will involve working collaboratively with the families of people with complex needs, housing providers and Integrated Joint Boards Chief Officers. Timescales for this are March 2017 to September 2017
3. Recommend solutions for developing community provision and minimising Out Of Area or Delayed Discharge. We aim for the project to recommend solutions by March 2018.

In addition, the Scottish Government has funded the Scottish Learning Disability Observatory (SLDO). It has been established to increase the visibility of people with learning disabilities within Scotland's routinely collected data. SLDO are tasked with collating and presenting relevant data about the population of people with learning disabilities and autism in Scotland that is accessible to a wide audience, and generating high quality evidence to build understanding of the health and health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities and autism. This information will be used to work with Integrated Joint Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships in the planned services for people with learning disabilities and autism.

Published information can be found at:

<https://www.sldo.ac.uk/>

Officials will continue to engage with Mrs Maxwell and a third meeting is planned for late August 2016 to discuss on-going work and progress to date with the commissioned work. Her input and lived experience has been valued during our meetings so far.

I hope this information will be of assistance to the Committee in its continuing consideration of the Petition.

Yours sincerely

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Scottish Government