

PE1369/D

**Local Government and the Third
Sector Directorate**

Local Government – Outcomes and
Partnerships Division

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Mr Fergus Cochrane
Clerk to the Public Petitions
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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27 January 2011

Dear Mr Cochrane

PETITION PE1369

I refer to the above petition, presented by Jodie McCoy on behalf of South Ayrshire Youth Forum calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to require local authorities, under the “Power to Advance Wellbeing” provisions (Part Three) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, to undertake impact assessments when considering the provision of local leisure and cultural facilities. I replied to the initial questions posed in the petition on 19 November and now set out the Scottish Government’s reply to South Ayrshire Youth Forum’s additional questions considered by the Petitions Committee on 11 January 2011

How do Ministers promote the process of Community Planning as the key over-arching framework to improve the planning and provision of services with specific reference to social factors such as the promotion of good physical and mental health, looking after the needs of children and young people, access to the arts or leisure facilities?

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 set out requirements on local authorities and community planning partnerships (CPP) to pursue continuous improvement and work in partnership. In addition, Ministers promoted the process of Community Planning by publishing the [National Standards for Community Engagement](#) which aims to develop and support better working relationships between communities and agencies delivering public services

The CPP provides the link between the Local Authority and other agencies in aligning national with local priorities, and the mechanism for identifying

priorities for each locality and areas of work where collaboration between partners will have the greatest impact.

Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) set out the agreed high level, strategic priorities of a Community Planning Partnership (CPP). These are set out as local outcomes, each of which is aligned with at least one of the 15 national outcomes. All of the particular subjects you mention are included in the Government's national outcomes.

A lot of work has been, and continues to be, done by Government with CPPs, particularly as the SOA approach is implemented locally. This work reaches across Government and is led by a network of Scottish Government Directors who work directly with individual CPPs in pursuit of improving local outcomes.

The Scottish Government's response highlighted the UK Government's new Equalities Act imposing a duty on local authorities to assess the impact of their proposed policies and practices on equalities groups (including young people). We are not sure what difference this will make when the existing human rights legislation, in particular article 12 and 31, say that children and young people have those rights currently, but they are not being implemented with any rigour. How is the implementation of current legislation monitored and recorded?

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's role is to monitor equality legislation, including the public sector equality duty. It also offers advice and information through its helplines, website and publications

I hope this is helpful

Yours sincerely

Carrol Herbertson