

PE1369/G

Chris Hynd
Committee Assistant
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
TG.01
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



30 August 2011

Dear Mr Hynd

PETITION PE1369

We think that the response from the Scottish Government supports our belief that the systems currently in place are not being used in the way that the Legislators intended.

We are disappointed the national standards for community engagement are not being applied with any rigour, in that only 5% of the consultations relate specifically to young people.

It also seems the Scottish Government does not hold any information regarding the use of children's rights impact assessments by local authorities and the Children's Commissioner is not aware of any being undertaken, using the toolkit developed by the commissioner.

The recent report by the Christie Commission included.

“Our proposal is to amend the statutory framework, through a set of mutually reinforcing provisions, as follows:

- The *power to advance well-being* should be extended to all public bodies, so that they may do anything which will promote the well-being of an area and its people, either directly or through support of another public body. This is in line with the Scottish Government / COSLA guidance on governance and accountability and will enable all bodies to take account of and improve all of their impacts upon their communities. (This would not enable a body to do anything which other legislation prevents, or to unreasonably duplicate the legislated functions of another body.)”

We suggest this supports our contention that the current legislation is not being used as it was intended and this results in poorer services, detrimental to the rights of young people, is less effective and efficient in delivering local services..

The Scottish Government seems to be satisfied the systems in place are adequate; the issues raised in our petition are still unresolved. We think we can go no further and thank the Petitions committee for their support in raising the issues with the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely
Brian Borland
Secretary
South Ayrshire Youth Forum