

David Stewart MSP
Convenor of the Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

From:
Michael Cumper

Dear Mr Stewart

Re: PE01446: Scottish Standards for the Care of Adult Congenital Heart Patients

I am writing to reiterate The Somerville Foundation's, which represents adults with congenital heart disease throughout the UK, full support for this petition. Vicki Hendry, Regional Development Worker in Scotland for The Somerville Foundation presented evidence on our behalf at the Public Petitions Committee meeting of the 27th of September 2012. Further, since submitting this petition, we have invited Dr Liza Morton to continue her efforts as voluntary Scottish Campaign Manager for The Somerville Foundation. These developments demonstrate the value that The Somerville Foundation places on the development of National Healthcare Standards and on having adequately funded service for patients in Scotland.

As previously stated, the NHS for England is in the process of agreeing standards for these patients with a view to designating a national service and The Somerville Foundation has a seat on that ACHD Standards Committee. This will for the first time ensure that this patient group knows where they should be going for their treatment, and where they should not, and if they go to a designated centre or a centre under the remit of a network with a designated centre at the hub, they will be in a place which has signed up to achieving the standards necessary to be able to provide the expert care which these patients need to survive and live as fulfilled a life as possible. It will also enable GPs and others in primary care to find the correct pathway for the correct care of these patients which far too often is currently not the case.

Given that these standards have been agreed by representatives of the professional associations of surgeons, consultants, nurses, users, etc. it must be the case that those in Scotland have a right to expect the same standards as a minimum.

Scotland should start now to consider how to implement these standards and create the network required when taking into account the geography of Scotland. It is not too early to start given the standards are now in a draft form, have been out for engagement and will shortly be going to public consultation. It is anticipated that centres in England will be invited to apply for consideration of designation before the summer and therefore the process is well underway.

Yours sincerely

Michael Cumper
Chairman

Supported by:



Saracens Business Centre 25 St Margarets Green Ipswich IP4 2BN
T: 01473 252007 F: 01473 281823 E: info@guch.org.uk www.guch.org.uk
Helpline: 0800 854759 Charity No. 1138088