

PE1393/L

NHS Forth Valley response to Petition PE1393
Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in Scotland.

The specific issues raised in the petition itself.

This is a valid issue raised by Barnardo's Scotland. It is essential that all guidance is up to date, relevant and accurate. Recent changes in legislation and related guidance highlight the need for this guidance to be updated.

The issues raised during the discussion on the petition.

The relevant issues, understanding and awareness relating to Child Sexual Exploitation have grown and developed rapidly over the last decade. Greater understanding can be attained through adequate research and training for relevant frontline staff in the detection and protection of vulnerable groups. Significant learning can be gleaned from the existing research in England and Wales to support the commissioning of research in Scotland. We would support the request for research.

Within Forth Valley local systems are in place to review young runaways considering their vulnerability and level of risk to child sexual exploitation.

Local arrangements and guidance are in place within Forth Valley. It would be helpful to see the National Child Protection Guidance reflecting the importance of this - clearly stating that there is an expectation to have local guidance which is reviewed and kept up-to-date.

The new guidance for Child Sexual Exploitation should be reviewed to reflect current changes to legislation, technology and new thinking affecting our most vulnerable children.

Written on behalf of NHS Forth Valley
Maureen Berry
Nurse Consultant Strategic Lead for Child Protection.