Dear James,

Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill

You will be aware of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Scotland’s position in relation to the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill following our written evidence and the Committee evidence session in which the RCN gave oral evidence.

At that session, the RCN made clear that it had not engaged to date on what was an indicative Code of Practice. Since that meeting of the Committee, the Scottish Government has sought to engage with the RCN on a Code of Practice which would accompany the legislation if it progresses through its Parliamentary stages.

The RCN has agreed to work with the Scottish Government on the Code of Practice: not to do so would mean that we missed the opportunity to influence a Code under which our members would be required to operate.

I wanted to let you and the Committee know that this is the case, should this be raised at any future point with you. To reiterate, our working on the Code of Practice is to ensure that our concerns and those of our members are addressed in the document in case the legislation is passed. Our work does not, of course, signal a change in our stated position on the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill.

The RCN continues to be fully supportive of the principle of the Named Person Scheme and hopes that, if the Bill falls, the work done on the Code of Practice could still be used to inform best practice guidance around the Named Person.

To reiterate, our working on the Code of Practice is to try to ensure that our concerns and those of our members are addressed in the Code of Practice in case the legislation is passed.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Theresa Fyffe

Director