NHS Governance – Clinical Governance

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My experiences have been very unsatisfactory after serving 2 years in a research programme with SIGN Scottish Intercollegiate Guideline Network 136 for Chronic Pain.

Following on from this process I was advised by the Public Health Minister Maureen Watt that I would be invited to join the Service Improvement Group SIG’s to assist with the implementation of these guidelines.

After 2 years of emails and attempts to find out why this invitation was not honoured, I was eventually told by the secretary of SIG’s that she was too busy and could not help me. I attended Grampian’s AGM meeting and asked Shona Robison a question about the lack of resources for Chronic Pain Sufferers. I was told that my question would be answered later but was subsequently directed to a Doctor who was specialised in Renal problems and could not help while Shona Robison left the meeting. After several more re-directions at the AGM I ended up with a newly appointed young and very pleasant lady who had just started working with the team responsible for organising the AGM. After a couple of emails my questions were efficiently swept away and again I felt totally demoralised by the experience. My demoralisation must only be a fraction of what patients throughout Scotland are currently experiencing despite the investment the Scottish Government has committed to Chronic Pain.

The questions related to NHS Governance:

Growing waiting lists for patients suffering with Chronic Pain in Grampian

Lack of transparency in the publication of these statistics

Lack of services to treat patients

Increased resources allocated to administration rather than increasing allocation for clinical staff

Poor representation of a genuine patient’s voice on SIG’s

Poor representation of different disciplines in healthcare on SIG’s

Lack of Transparency in the nomination of representatives for SIG’s

Poor communication of resources re CIC and Allander House

Decision by Health Boards to withdraw support to CIC despite Public Consultation requesting that the contrary

Removal of Independent adviser has resulted in no accountability for poor or undemocratic decisions

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