The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3).

1. **Consideration of continued petitions**: The Committee will consider the following continued petitions—
   
   PE1600 on Speed awareness courses; and
   
   PE1687 on Regulation of fireworks displays in Scotland.

2. **Inquiry into mental health support for young people in Scotland**: The Committee will consider a note by the clerk on the inquiry, in connection with public petition PE1627.

Sarah Robertson  
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 1**

Note by the Clerk

Note by the Clerk

**Agenda item 2**

Note by the Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
4th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)
Thursday 21 February 2019

PE1600 Speed awareness courses

Note by the Clerk

Petitioner
John Chapman

Petition summary
Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce speed awareness courses.

Webpage  parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01600

Purpose

1. The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on 23 September 2018, at which it acknowledged the petitioner’s frustration with the time taken to achieve any sense of progress with the petition, and agreed that it would be helpful to invite representatives from the Scottish Government and Police Scotland to provide oral evidence.

Recent submissions

2. The Committee has recently received an update from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. That submission confirms that the Lord Advocate “has agreed in principle to the diversion at source to SACs by Police Scotland as an alternative to prosecution in appropriate cases”. It adds—

“A multi-agency working group, including Police Scotland, COPFS, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, Scottish Government Transport officials and the Scottish Safety Camera Programme, will work together to devise the necessary infrastructure and guidance required to support the introduction of SACs in Scotland.”

3. The petitioner has welcomed the formation of the working group as “a great step forward” but seeks clarification on the time parameter for the group to complete its work.

Action

4. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take on this petition. Options include—

- To invite representatives of the multi-agency working group to provide oral evidence in advance of the summer recess.
• To take any other action members consider appropriate.

Clerk to the Committee

Annexe

The following submissions are circulated in connection with consideration of the petition at this meeting—

• PE1600/O: Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service submission of 31 January 2019 (297KB pdf)
• PE1600/P: Petitioner submission of 8 February 2019 (59KB pdf)

All written submissions received on the petition can be viewed on the petition webpage.
Public Petitions Committee

4th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)

Thursday 21 February 2019

PE1687: Regulation of fireworks displays in Scotland

Note by the Clerk

Petitioner  Jane Erskine

Petition summary  Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review existing regulations governing fireworks displays in Scotland, particularly in terms of private fireworks displays in rural locations, in order to protect animals from fear and distress and prevent subsequent injury.

Webpage  parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01687

Introduction

1. This is a continued petition that the Committee last considered in October 2018. At that meeting the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and other stakeholders.

Committee consideration

2. In its submission of 26 November 2018, the Scottish Government referred to the Minister for Community Safety’s announcement of a forthcoming consultation on the use and regulation of fireworks.

3. The Scottish Government’s consultation on fireworks in Scotland: Your experiences, your ideas, your views opened on 3 February 2019 and closes on 13 May 2019. Part 4 of the consultation focuses on animal welfare and asks for local examples of practice.

Conclusion

4. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take. Options include—

   • To close the petition on the basis that the Scottish Government is consulting on this issue in the wider context of the use and regulation of fireworks in Scotland. If taking this action, the Committee may wish to highlight the consultation to the petitioner and invite her to respond directly to that.

   • To defer the petition until the Scottish Government has published the findings of its consultation.

   • To take any other action the Committee considers appropriate.

Clerk to the Committee
Introduction

1. On 7 November 2018, the Committee launched its inquiry into mental health support for young people in Scotland in connection with petition PE1627: Consent for mental health treatment for people under 18 years of age raised by Annette Mackenzie.

2. Further work has been progressed by the clerks since the launch of the inquiry and the Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Background

3. The inquiry into mental health support for young people in Scotland aims to understand and suggest improvements on how young people feeling low and/or anxious can get the advice and support they need, particularly for the first time.

4. As part of the inquiry, the Committee developed a diagram which maps the different ways a young person might access the support they need. Thinking about this diagram, the Committee wanted to hear views of young people and organisations. To this end, a call for evidence was issued on 7 November 2018 until 14 December 2018.

Committee consideration

Call for evidence

5. The following activities took place as part of the inquiry’s call for evidence which provided the evidence base now under consideration by the Committee.

6. Between 7 November 2018 and 14 December 2018, the Committee received 49 written responses, made up of:

- X27 Third sector organisations
- X7 Health & social care partnerships
- X6 Public/Professional bodies
- X5 Individuals
- X3 Local authorities
- X1 Private sector organisation
7. The Committee also gathered views using the digital consultation tool, Dialogue; used to provide three separate online discussions for young people, parents and carers, and professionals:

www.parliament.scot/mental-health-dialogue

8. Dialogue invited participants to respond to a 'challenge' relating to questions outlined in the call for views and used the infographic as an aid to prompt contributions; this produced 47 discussion topics.

9. Number of contributors to Dialogue:

- X45 Young people
- X18 Professionals
- X9 Parents and carers

10. Two outreach events were held in Edinburgh on 26 November 2018, at Muirhouse Millennium Centre, and 11 January 2019 at Tynecastle High School. The events were designed to mirror the online, Dialogue, discussion and encouraged conversations between young people and mental health professionals. Participants included; parents; teachers; guidance teachers; youth workers; college staff; and CAMHS professionals.

11. Although the submissions and discussion topics are all online, the clerks have provided these in hard copy for each Member for information and an overview.

Submissions analysis

12. Initial analysis of the inquiry submissions has been conducted by the clerks and what follows is an outline of the themes emerging from the submissions received:

- What support would you be most likely to use first?
  - **First point of contact**: Friends, family, GP, teacher, other professional services and online platforms; all were stated with great regularity, however, submissions suggest that engagement with medical/professional services is underpinned by support from personal connections e.g. friends or family
  
  - **Professional constraints**: GPs themselves acknowledge, along with other submissions, that the typical 10 minute appointments available to patients are insufficient in order to deal with mental health issues presented to them. Similarly, when teachers were mentioned, limited available time and a lack of knowledge of relevant services to signpost young people onto or within the school was highlighted amongst a number of submissions
• What needs to change or improve?
  o A significant number of the submissions received stated that training or workforce development should happen on a national school-wide basis. For example, establishing mental health leads/champions within every school which could be a member of staff or be peer-to-peer based.
  o Collaborative and more holistic approaches to mental health services in Scotland was a prominent theme.
  o Greater provision of mental health advice and awareness raising activities targeted at young people, their families and schools. This should include increasing the accessibility of such information.
  o Early intervention/prevention approach and development of a specialist mental health service for 16 – 25 year olds.
  o The following quotes from the Scottish Children’s Services Coalition submission encapsulates a number of the points raised—
    “a national programme of mental health training for all staff in schools in Scotland is vital, delivering a whole-school approach to mental wellbeing. Parents should also be able to easily access information to provide them with a greater understanding of mental health problems… Children and young people should also be made more aware of the mental health advice, information and support available to them, including the provision of an appropriately experienced counsellor in all secondary schools”

• Is there anything (else) that has been missed?
  o Equalities: a mention or acknowledgement that particular groups of young people are disproportionately affected by mental health issues e.g. those in the LGBT community and those with physical or learning difficulties

Oral evidence

13. The following organisations have been identified which may provide useful information and where the Committee may wish to consider taking oral evidence.
  • Representatives from the Taskforce on Children and Young People’s Mental Health (jointly commissioned by the Scottish Government and COSLA)
  • SAMH/ISD - both took part in an audit looking into CAMHS referral rejections; this resulted in 29 recommendations that the Scottish
Government has accepted in full, and the creation of the above-mentioned taskforce.
- Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Recommendations

14. The Committee is invited to:

- note the contents of this paper;
- discuss the emerging themes; and
- instruct the clerks to bring forward further papers for consideration in relation to themes and witnesses.

Clerks to the Committee
February 2019