

PE1627/K

Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry submission of 4 July 2017

I am writing on behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland Faculty of Child and Adolescent psychiatry in response to this petition, having canvassed the opinions of members of our Executive.

Firstly we were very sorry to hear about the sad case which led to this petition and extend our condolences to her family.

In relation to the petition, there was universal support for maintaining the right to confidentiality of young people who can give informed consent to treatment. It is important that young people with mental health presentations are treated in the same way as those seeking help regarding their physical and sexual health. In all cases, young people should be encouraged to seek the support of family and friends when they are vulnerable and usually sharing information about their difficulties, treatments and how to access services is in their best interest.

In my opinion, the most salient point was made by a service user on our group. She highlighted the risk of young people **not** seeking help regarding their mental health, if they could not do this within a framework of confidentiality, appropriate to their level of capacity and competence.

We would be very happy to think together with other colleagues about how to support young people accessing high quality, timely services for mental health disorders in Scotland.

I hope this is helpful and would be happy to discuss this further if required.