

National Gender Identity Clinical Network for Scotland (NGICNS) submission of 17 May 2023

PE2001/E: Withdraw the 'Supporting transgender young people in schools' guidance from Scottish schools

Thank-you for your recent correspondence to the National Gender Identity Clinical Network Scotland (NGICNS) regarding petition P2001 which is calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to withdraw the 'Supporting transgender young people in schools: guidance for Scottish schools' resource, and await the outcome of the Cass Review before developing a new resource.

National Gender Clinical Identity Network Scotland (NGICNS)

The overarching aim of NGICNS is to achieve the best possible clinical and other outcomes for gender patients in Scotland through better access to high quality specialist care by enabling SGHSCD policy aims of safe, effective, person-centred care delivered as close to home as possible.

The Guidance

Scottish Government policy in regard to education and the provision of materials and guidance documents to educational establishments does not sit within the remit of NGICNS.

The published guidance makes it clear that it is non-statutory and is designed to help education authority, grant-aided and independent schools to make decisions effectively but is not prescriptive about what is required in individual circumstances. NGICNS is supportive of any guidance which aims to help school staff to provide transgender young people with the best possible educational experiences. NGICNS are supportive of the overarching aims of the guidance including the promotion of physical and mental wellbeing and the included content describing the services available to those reaching puberty and those undergoing medical transition.

The Cass Review & NGICNS

The Cass Review was commissioned by NHS England with a view to ensuring that children and young people are able to access the best possible support from the NHS (in England), and a high standard of care that meets their individual needs. NHS England has no role in the

commissioning or delivery of services within Scotland. In addition, the review has no significance to the provision of educational materials to schools.

NGCINS was established with a view to delivering closer collaboration between Gender Identity Clinics in Scotland (commissioned and provided by Territorial Health Boards) and the wider clinical community providing clinical services to those undergoing or considering transition. Network engagement with relevant charitable, third sector and patient advocacy organisations aims to ensure that lived experiences are understood and that the needs of individuals and the wider community are considered when planning or improving services, developing clinical guidelines or educational offerings for Healthcare Professionals and undertaking clinical audit.

NGICNS is currently awaiting the final report of the findings and recommendations with a view to understanding their relevance to needs for services and pathways of clinical care for the population of children and young people in Scotland.

We hope that the information provided in this letter is helpful to you however should your committee have further queries in regard to the Networks role in the space of specialist healthcare for transgender children and young people please do not hesitate to contact us.