

P-04-452 : Equal Rights for Tube-fed Youngsters.

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that funding is made available to ensure that the vital equipment and services required by tube-fed children and young people are made available to them.

For example, equal rights for tube-fed youngsters in the Caerphilly County Borough Council currently fall between 2 defined categories of need. The Aneurin Bevan Health Board say as they are not Continuing Health Care (CHC) children - **'only tube-fed'** - they cannot fund the vital equipment and services we need. Caerphilly Social Services also say they cannot help as **these children 'have significant health needs'**. **These definitions exclude and therefore discriminate against Tube-fed Youngsters and we demand an investigation into this practice in Caerphilly.** Whilst our Youngsters do not **'qualify' for help from either Health or Social Services in the Caerphilly Borough** we still have a Youngster with 24/7 care needs - the same as a newborn - often with disabilities due to a life-threatening illness.

Additional Information:

Our Youngsters need a 'label' in order to be able to automatically access funding for vital equipment and services. At present inter-departmental financial wrangling takes place on request for anything for a Tube-fed Youngster and this should not involve Parents / Carers. We just need the help for our Youngsters as quickly as possible. We ask that a quick, common-sense, long-term solution be achieved for our Youngsters and for the sake of the health and wellbeing of their Parents / Carers.

Petition raised by: Dr Tymandra Blewett-Silcock

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 January 2013

Number of signatures: 142