



We asked SYP members about the puberty blocker ban!

What young people say

The puberty blocker changes have destroyed the possibility for living comfortably as my preferred gender, increasing bullying for not looking like the gender I truly am.

I don't think it's very fair, I get why the law is there but you could adjust it so you can get puberty blockers after say a year or so of living as trans, because it really is hard knowing I'll never be able to get on them.

The correct trialling of the drug is necessary, but the ideological politics behind decisions like these is disappointing, and the lack of support or funding for mental health support in its replacement is not only frustrating, its alienating. Kids are being denied the right to grow up the way they deserve to be Happy

Puberty wasn't very nice and it would have been nice to have the option

It is devastating that they are forcing young people to go through something they can't cope with. It's cruel because they know they are taking away life saving medication.

When we should be telling trans kids that they get to choose for themselves, instead we are restricting them further. The cycle needs to end.

It seems malign that they've made this decision despite research backing up the use of puberty blockers. The Cass Report seems to have heavily influenced this choice despite it being a widely discredited report. I'm worried about the family impact and the wide loss of trust the public will have in the NHS and Government."

"It makes me feel invisible, I was never given the chance to go on puberty blockers.

They don't seem to take gender dysphoria seriously, when it has terrible consequences when it isn't acknowledged. Whenever I feel like trying to say stuff like this, I feel like a small child talking to an adult that thinks your problems are just so small and insignificant.

It's silly to ban them when they are already a compromise solution to taking HRT. And if they are so dangerous, why do you give them to cisgender children for other reasons?

If loads of other people use them around the world and for cis people, then why ban them?

I think for some people it can be absolutely essential to give them a choice

I think it is a shame that the government make promises about protecting trans youth to get into power and then retract this when they are in power

Because of the views of the wider public, I came out a bit too late to take to use them, but it hurts me to see younger trans people unable to use them

What young people say (continued)

Why take away a lifeline that will sacrifice a lifetime

Giving access to puberty blockers will help trans youth feel more confident and happier. Taking them away will make things worse

What Parents / Carers say

When the ban of puberty blockers was originally announced, I was completely stunned to discover that those under 18s already on blockers that were not being prescribed by the NHS were no longer able to have their prescriptions filled in the UK. I was astounded as I could not believe that they were effectively stopping my daughter's treatment. At this point she had been on blockers for a year alongside hormones, which according to the CASS Report was appropriate and deemed safe.

However the then Health Secretary claims puberty blockers are unsafe, regardless of not being a doctor yet it is telling that their use has been banned ONLY for those accessing them for treatment of gender dysphoria. Cis children who are experiencing precocious puberty will still be able to access the same medication that has been denied to trans children. This raises significant concerns that the Order is discriminatory, and is sought only to prevent trans children from being able to access this medication that can be so vital to their wellbeing. It felt that the order was a clear message that the then government would rather children like my daughter did not exist. We were one of the lucky ones as I was able to get a prescription filled to cover my daughter through the initial ban and I felt strongly that Labour would not extend as they suggested that they had a much more balanced view so I was incredibly saddened to see that Wes Streeting has extended the ban especially as many esteemed medical sources have said the CASS report is flawed and even the BMA do not agree with all the recommendations. In recent months my daughter's medication was reviewed and she no longer requires the banned blockers so her treatment was never interrupted but my heart goes out to those young people whose lives are impacted by this completely unnecessary ban."

My daughter came out to me as trans when she was 14 years old. As well as having all of the usual stresses and worries of every teenager, she has woken up every morning in a body she does not relate to. Her gender dysphoria has effected her school/college work, relationships, self esteem and at times, ability to leave her bedroom.

We decided to arrange puberty blockers via GenderGP when she was 15. This was not an easy decision but with a 6+ year waiting list for a first appointment with anyone who understands gender dysphoria and with no-one who could advise us, we decided for her mental health, this was the only way forward.

What Parents / Carers say (continued)

At a time when your body is changing, a body that you do not recognise as being your own, the puberty blockers were the only comfort we could give our daughter. I can not understand how puberty blockers are being banned when young trans people are waiting 6 year plus for a gender clinic appointment.

My daughter is now 18 and thankfully we can still arrange puberty blockers for her, especially as there is no sign of an appointment from the gender clinic. The puberty blockers allow time to slow down development while they are on the waiting list and for some people they could be a life saver.

Terrible idea. It restricts young people and adults from expressing themselves that can cause bad mental health.

I think doctors should be making the decision, not politicians.

I think that this is a really punitive and cynical decision. The idea that the NHS needs to begin its own research from scratch rather than look at the wealth of research from other countries is thinly veiled discrimination against our most vulnerable citizens. It leaves an entire generation of trans kids in limbo and shows utter disrespect for them and their needs.

The ban on puberty blockers removes agency from families and doctors who have been making medically informed and educated decisions about the young people in their care. It effectively criminalises what has until now been a period of watchful waiting. The effect is to either forcibly detransition trans young people, or accelerate medicalisation. This ban has left trans young people and their families anxious, concerned, distraught and angry. Decisions about medical interventions (which have been used in controversially for years) should be left to doctors - and it is notable that the British Medical Association does not support this ban for trans young people. The fact that puberty blockers remain available for cisgender young people undergoing precocious puberty underlines the real nature of this ban, and its roots in transphobia.