

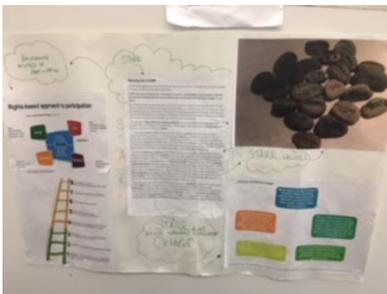


STARR event 26 May 2018

The core STARR membership now includes 12 adults with lived experience of secure care/being on the edges of secure care. Seven members gathered in Dundee for a full day workshop in a lovely space, the Discovery Suite at the Discovery Centre. The workshop was chaired by Beth Logan, STARR Chair and Secure Care Strategic Board member, with Laura Beveridge, who is also a Board member. The secretariat/supporter for STARR is Alison Gough, secure care national adviser at CYCJ. We covered a range of issues on the day, but a key focus was reviewing the working 'Vision Statement' for secure care which the Secure Care Strategic Board had agreed at its meeting on 17 April.

STARR aims and opportunities

We referred to the STARR poster and the Aims circle which had been developed from the first meeting:



Group discussion took place about each of the areas for focus within the circle:

Whole System Change to support and help children and young people where there are worries about serious harm to self or other people without locking young people up

'Children are judged on their actions not their needs'

'there should be flexibility and choice about help'

- Strong support for this as an area to influence
- Strong call for shift of language and behaviours and attitudes across the system - away from describing and responding to children with problems as 'being a problem'
- Recognition that children are part of families and communities – help and support should be offered in schools, and wherever worries are increasing for a young person's safety and this would mean less need for secure care/intensive support services
- STARR urges the Board to avoid 'putting children into boxes' – and further fragment children's experiences – ALL children who are in difficulty should be treated as children and there is a risk that the artificial distinction between 'offending' and 'welfare' is continued
- Risk of duplicating the current labelling and gatekeeping which occurs now – for example young people in distress/with psychological issues but refused CAMHS help are at risk of being secured when they need therapeutic care
- Importance of stressing the need for intensive support within this circle

'The system seems designed to break people'

'If secure care is uncaring and lacking in compassion and nurture then this impacts on children's development and behaviours'

'children need love and care and role models - it's all about relationships'

Where children are in a secure, contained environment, changing how this feels including attitudes towards children and secure care - so that young people feel safe and feel that they are getting real help in a nurturing safe haven

Improving safeguarding advocacy and children's rights support for children and young people in secure care and the accountability of all professionals and agencies in this

- Critical area of focus – the longer term Vision is on the right lines but change and progress is needed now in relation to secure care and how young people's rights are respected and upheld
- Pathways and routes into secure care – there is a need to revisit the legislation in relation to the way in which placements are made and how this is monitored
- STARR would like to see attention paid to staff recruitment/selection, and training and supervision
- The National Standards and the Commissioning work stream give an opportunity for this – the voices of care experience need to be heard in this, so that young people's views and ideas regarding emotional intelligence and empathy and staff capacity are included in any standards and processes that are developed
- In terms of day to day living in secure care, children's rights and access to advocacy, advice, support and mechanisms for monitoring children's experiences and that their rights are being upheld - this all requires attention
- No one is currently holding the Children's Hearings System and decision makers to account in relation to lengthy and/or repeat placements in secure care
- Access to help and support under Article 39 – the system currently means that there is no equity – access to help depends on the CAMHS team and/or on what is available at the secure care centre
- Everything we know from research and lived experience tells is that young people who have experienced the levels of harm and trauma that mean they reach secure care; are in need of compassion, nurturing and therapeutic help but often the 'system' criminalises them and further harms them
- It is vital that young people who are currently in secure care are heard and can influence and shape what happens – STARR has a role in recommending how this happens and once the CYCJ participation worker is in place but it is for all of Board work streams to engage with young people

Improving aftercare and supports to young people moving on from secure care - significant investment is needed to build hope, belief and ambition for positive futures

'step down/moving on support for as long as you need it – and staged' 'financial support and aftercare – this shouldn't stop at 26' 'flexible intensive support after'

- STARR is not a peer support network as we know - but is one needed? Where is the specific support and recognition for people with experience of secure care? There is none
- National Standards may go some way towards re-enforcing young people's rights to continuity of care and recognition that needs don't just 'go away' because a young person doesn't 'meet the secure criteria'
- Young people in secure care are treated differently – examples were given of discrimination in terms of placements, benefits, employment
- Links to the final circle below are very clear:

Improved understanding and recognition of the impact of being secured and having experience of secure care - the need to develop connections and peer support networks

'attitudes need to change – still seen as mini jail' 'Health needs and mental wellbeing – article 39 support' 'challenge the stigma' 'ACKNOWLEDGEMENT!' and support – trauma recovery'

- There is no 'alumni' in place for people who have experience of secure care
- A lot of discussion about language – the group agreed 'alumni' may be an unhelpful term and instead changed the wording in this circle as above
- There was discussion about the need to build in choices for young people 'Young people should be offered choices to stay connected with people important to them'
- Everyone involved with the Board (and beyond) needs to challenge the misunderstanding and the stigma and prejudicial assumptions and judgements made about young people and people with experience of secure care
- There is no specialist help for young people and adults in relation to the long term impact of having experienced secure care
- This must change – but it is not STARR's responsibility to do that

Discussion about STARR's Aims circle led into the STARR review of the working Vision and Purpose statements agreed by the Board:

STARR advice on the working Vision Statement

- There was broad agreement and approval of the Vision statement
- STARR members were positive about the way in which the Vision Statement does not label children and young people with problems, or 'separate out' children in conflict with the law from others
- STARR Group members were wholly supportive of the definition of "children as children" in terms of the UNCRC and that the longer term aspects of the Vision statement apply for children and young people in secure care settings and in custody settings including prison
- There could perhaps be some more thought given to some of the language in the Vision Statement (does the phrase referring to "whatever the vulnerabilities and risks associated with their distress and actions" really need to be in there?)

- Discussion took place about the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' statement within the working vision in this context – STARR members noted that there are Vision/Policy statements coming forward from numerous different policy reviews and strategy groups including the Independent Review of Care, the CAMHS Commission, the Kilbrandon Again review, the National Confidential Forum/Inquiry, the Justice Review, in addition to the many linked (and separate) participation and campaigning groups seeking to ensure that people with lived experience are being heard and fully involved and included in the various reviews
- In this context, there was a suggestion that the development of so many different strategies and plans and sets of actions (which are not being 'joined up') could lead to misunderstanding and confusion, and lots of duplication of effort. Shouldn't there be one vision, for all children and young people and their families so that everyone is working together to 'Get it Right'?

STARR advice on the Purpose Statement

'Smoking on planes? This seems totally ridiculous to us now...but its Scotland's shame that we're still locking up children'

'But sometimes young people need to be kept safe....it can be done IF it's about the young person....not just locking children up in the same way whatever their needs and actions'

'Intensive care – in a Therapeutic, caring, safe, nurturing environment, but with flexibility and feeling safe - child centred not all about adult control and power'

'Every young person has a right to compassion, empathy, equity of access and therapeutic help, understanding and respect'

~~SECURE CARE.....~~

INTENSIVE CARE

~~Locked doors.....~~

ADULTS WITHIN ARMS REACH

~~Isolated in your room.....~~

24 STAFF: 12 CHILDREN – NURTURE/EDUCATION/AMBITION/HOPE/BELIEF

~~Control.....~~

GUIDANCE/ROLE MODELLING

~~Reacting and punishing...~~

RESPONDING AND UNDERSTANDING

~~Imposing change.....~~

RESPECT/ADVOCACY/AGENCY

~~One size fits all RULES for rules' sake....~~

CONSULTATION/DIALOGUE/FLEXIBILITY

~~'Programmes' and 'doing to'.....~~

.....EVIDENCE BASED TRAUMA RESPONSE AND SUPPORT...LEARN FROM WHAT WE KNOW WORKS!

'A LIFE EXPLORED'.....WE DO HAVE MODELS THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM!

Beth

