

The View from Secure Care - April 2020

The following update was shared in the April issue of the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice's e-bulletin.

The Scottish Government chair a weekly meeting of a Secure Care Group which supports contingency planning for the five secure services in Scotland. All five secure services, Education Scotland, Scotland Excel and the Care Inspectorate take part in the call. All five centres are in daily contact with Scottish Government officials to raise and discuss concerns as they arise.

All secure services have robust service continuity and contingency plans in place which are reviewed as new guidance and advice becomes available. Secure centres are working hard to keep to the normal daily routine wherever possible, including continuing with education and support programmes. Staff are working closely with young people to ease their concerns and ensure they are able to stay safe and in regular contact with their families.

Secure Services are facing challenges due to staff absences. However, they have plans in place to manage those absences, working creatively to ensure there is sufficient staff and using overtime as required. Staff have access to PPE and are able to care for the young people if they are required to isolate. Secure providers have been able to access testing for young people displaying symptoms so far all tests have returned negative. In the last week staff have now been able to access testing this has helped staff stay at work or return sooner than would otherwise have been possible.

Secure services are accepting new referrals and have put in place an admission risk assessment process to ensure the safety of staff and young people in their care.

Despite the current pressures, challenges and anxiety regarding COVID-19, below are some examples of how some of the secure care centres are supporting the children and young people in their care and more widely during the current pandemic:

Kibble Within our Safe Centre and across our services, we developed a child-friendly guide to help young people understand and process the myriad of information around coronavirus. The guide informs young people of the symptoms, how to prevent the virus spreading, and what to do if they feel unwell or anxious. It also provides tips on how to look after their health and wellbeing. Alongside this, we have created a varied programme of activities, events and community projects which have brought a great deal of fun and lightness to a difficult time. This has included a young person painting Disney murals on the walls of our Safe Centre; rainbows painted on windows across campus; and delicious cakes and handmade cards given to residents in the local care home. This community connection has brought great joy to all involved. For young people who have moved on from Kibble, our dedicated Facebook group enables us to check in with our wider Kibble family, letting them know we're here to support them and to provide useful links and messages of support.

Rossie Young People's Trust Our young people wanted to do something good, and thoughtful and generous for vulnerable people locally. Supported by staff from care, education and catering, our young people made batches of lentil soup, spaghetti bolognese, bread, rolls and tray bakes. Through the good partnership with *Volunteer Action Angus*, a local volunteer collected the homemade food



so it could be distributed to local people in need. This shows the goodness and empathy that is still very much alive and well in Rossie.

If you would like any more information or to discuss secure care, please contact deborah.nolan@strath.ac.uk



Image courtesy of Kibble