

The View from Secure Care - August 2020

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

To date all the secure care centres have coped well with the COVID-19 crisis and there has not been a positive test for any young person in secure care. Family visits are going well and all centres are able to facilitate necessary professional visits. The summer programmes went well with several activities taking place across all five centres. Children returned to school on August 12 with some units using a phased return to classroom work. Staffing levels across all secure centres continue to improve as they work with shielding staff helping them to safely return to work.

There is however no complacency and all of the centres are well aware of the recent outbreak in Aberdeen and the smaller localised new cases across the country. Units are working on their risk assessments and contingency plans for how they will manage a possible second wave. Those individual contingency plans will be discussed at the weekly tele-conferences hosted by Scottish Government where the Unit Heads have the opportunity to discuss issues, new guidance and share good practice.

It is hoped the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): residential childcare guidance](#) will be updated in the next week including information on how to manage cases where a young person in care is displaying symptoms.

Examples of frontline practice in caring for children and young people having been shared in [CELICIS' Meeting the challenge of COVID-19](#) from Rossie Young People's Trust on young people spreading kindness and positivity in their community, the Good Shepherd Centre on involving young people in COVID-19 Route Mapping, and Kibble on Technology steps in to keep relationships going during COVID-19.

Work on the Secure Care Pathway and Standards Scotland continues towards a proposed launch date in early October. Standards Champions from most of the secure care centres met on August 12. The focus of this meeting was to finalise and collate further content for the website accompanying the Standards, building upon the coproduction activity undertaken thus far, with exceptional work having been undertaken with children currently in secure care to capture their voice on why the standards matter to them. Young people at Rossie Young People's Trust have also been engaged in a project to translate the Standards into images and to then take, create and source photographs or pictures. This work will now be continued within the other secure care centres. Regular meetings have also taken place with the STARR group, which has included audio recording content for the website and selecting quotes from those shared by young people to explain why individual Standards matter to them. In addition, this has involved ongoing work with IRISS who are developing the website. Meetings have also taken place with the Scottish Government and COSLA, the Care Inspectorate, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and NES.

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