

The View from Secure Care - January 2021

The following update was shared in the January 2021 issue of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice e-bulletin.

Secure care

All secure centres have now had staff test positive for COVID. When this has happened, each centre has informed the Care Inspectorate and worked closely with Health Protection Scotland and their local Health Boards to prevent the spread of the virus. This approach has worked well and all centres have managed to maintain a full service by working in house unit bubbles when required.

Centres have robust plans in place that have enabled them to continue to provide a full range of services and supports for young people with minimum disruption. Education resumed following the festive break, with each centre having their own plan in place providing a mix of blended learning and shorter school days to ensure learning is able to continue. Only essential visits are taking place following the recent review of lockdown restrictions, with young people able to stay in touch with family and friends using digital technology. Admissions and transitions are still taking place with robust precautions in place. The staff vaccination programme is underway in line with NHS arrangements, with a number of staff already having received their first dose.

Following the launch of the [Secure Care Pathway and Standards Scotland](#) on October 5, CYCJ has progressed discussions on implementation and the support we can offer to a range of agencies. This has included meetings with Scotland Excel, Children's Hearings Scotland and secure care centres. We have also had positive contact with over half of Scotland's local authorities, offering support to many and have multi-agency inputs planned covering five areas - if we can support you, please get in touch! The Standards [website](#) had 1,395 individual visits in the first two months and almost 6,000 page views. Please continue to share the website with your colleagues and networks. We have also developed a range of other materials to support dissemination of the Standards. We are planning to capture information about the amazing launch events that took place with children and staff in secure care on October 8, so watch this space. Plans are also underway for a stakeholder event on the Pathway and Standards on February 25 - invitations will follow.

The Secure Care Standards Champions met on January 13. This implementation support group is a space where members can share their journey, learning, experiences, opportunities and challenges in implementing the Standards, as well collaboratively create, innovate and support practice and progress in meeting the Standards. The group is open to individuals from all agencies with roles and responsibilities around implementation. Current membership includes representatives from the five secure care centres, local authorities and Scottish Government. If you would like to find out more or join the group, please get in touch.

Centre Chat

A look at recent achievements and updates from some of the secure care centres...

Rossie

Rossie Young People's Trust have continued to give back to the wider community, having again made compassion good bags as a Christmas treat for older people who reside in Sheltered Housing in Montrose. Care About Angus rewarded the children involved with thank you gifts of sweets and

jigsaws. Rossie have also launched their [Outdoor gym](#), an idea suggested by young people. In addition, two young people also participated in Scottish Throughcare Aftercare Forum (STAF) project "[The Real Toolkit](#)". This project aims to build a resource with care experienced young people to support relationships across Scotland. During the online workshop, the young people made beautiful wreaths (pictured below), were informed about the project and given the opportunity to discuss how they can get involved.



Follow Rossie on Twitter @RossieYPT

News from the Good Shepherd Centre: Alison Gough, Director

At the Good Shepherd Centre (GSC), like everywhere else the pandemic has dominated all aspects of day-to-day life and learning for almost a year now. But as 2020 ended and we entered 2021 and another lockdown (!) we reflected on all that we've learned during that time and how we can take that forward in a positive way for the future. Our core values include being rights-respecting, kind, nurturing and demonstrating and promoting resilience and hope. It's been so important to keep focused on these principles in the context of the restrictions and demands COVID has forced on young people and staff.

Before COVID, as part of this and working towards rights-respecting school status, our young people spent time identifying and exploring their UNCRC rights that they believed should be at the heart of a Charter of Rights for GSC. We're now working with young people to revisit this. Our pupil Council and feedback from two surveys we undertook in 2020 around COVID impact will feed in to the review and you can read the current Charter [here](#).

The amazing work our young people and Standards Champions engaged in around the launch of the Secure Care Pathway and Standards Scotland at the end of last year will also be important. We're now focused on implementation, including looking at creative ways to display the standards and explain them which make sense to young people. We have learned so much about how we can use video technology, blended approaches and multi-media to communication and directly work



together. The feedback from the Standards launch as well as other events and projects which have taken place in care house and staff 'bubbles' tells us that at times, this 'bubble' approach actually enhances levels of involvement and inclusion. As part of our Welcome, Eat Well and other Standards implementation projects, we'll be definitely be building on this. We have also entered into an [exciting partnership](#) with the SoundLab charity, a project that will support Standards implementation.

Throughout the pandemic, we've felt it is really important to share positive news across the centre, with families, and the professionals involved with our young people and the wider public. We've done this through newsletters, social media and community engagement and it was great to be able to share some of those positives and our journey preparing for the Standards in our [Service Standards and Quality Report for 2019/20](#) at the end of last year.

Follow the Good Shepherd Centre on Twitter @GSCBishopton

If you would like any more information or to discuss secure care, please contact deborah.nolan@strath.ac.uk. [Find out more](#) about secure care in Scotland.