

## Secure Care Pathway and Standards Champions Bi-annual Newsletter

### Introduction from the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice

Welcome to our first edition of the Secure Care Pathway and Standards Champions newsletter. In September 2022 discussions took place regarding the best way to share knowledge and learning from the Champions group and it was agreed that CYCJ would produce a bi-annual newsletter illustrating the work being undertaken so that learning and development could be shared nationally. This group, comprising of key secure care stakeholders, was integral to the formulation and development of the Secure Care Pathway and Standards Scotland, launched in October 2020. Almost three years post launch it is important to continue to share experiences of implementation and the ongoing embedding of work. It is envisaged this will help others with their roles and responsibilities in the applying the Standards. The newsletter will be published in July and January to avoid competing demands in the CYCJ calendar. We would appreciate any feedback you have.

### An update from [STARR](#)...

STARR is Scotland's only curated space for children, young people, and adults with experience of secure care. Over the past year the group have revisited their original vision, sharing their mission to provide an anchor and guiding light of ambition and hope for children experiencing secure care plus supportive opportunities for those with lived experience, in addition to [traditional work](#). Foundations are being formed with visits to secure care centres; it is envisaged that their work will involve bi-monthly visits enabling children to feed into the national secure care agenda.

### An update from one of our partners...

One Champions group member Kerry Watson recently shared a [blog](#) about her experience of being part of the group.

### The Secure Care Champions group

Since autumn 2022, the Champions group have received inputs from the Scottish Government on CRWIA, Child Bereavement UK, and the (Children's Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill. Networks have been formed with Talking Hope 3 and the Cyrenians Keeping Families Together project. Additionally, practitioners have engaged in a Reimagining Secure Care consultation.

Outputs have included a visit to Ireland and it's resultant [blog](#), workshops delivered to three local authority partnerships and one key stakeholder in addition to a CYCJ/STARR input at the CELCIS conference (2022). CYCJ have also produced two reports that provide insight into [secure care](#) and the [implementation of the Standards](#) into practice. The implementation report provides illustrations of how the Standards have been put into practice by third sector, local authority, and independent partner agencies.

### Key Themes

Several themes emerged within Champions group sessions. These included: the need for clarity around what constitutes alternatives to secure care; gaps in moving-on provision; a lack of contingency planning and resources; children's rights and trauma informed practice knowledge and awareness gaps in the workforce; how language can be disempowering, for instance the use of disruptive rather than distressed; the need for clarity regarding continuing care; limited understanding of the Standards where organisations have no or limited exposure to secure care; the need for multi-agency planning and ongoing review from the outset, when secure care is identified;

limited access to specialist supports in the community and children not being fully informed or involved in decisions about secure care.

However, these gaps were not inevitable, and examples of excellent practice were shared as part of a group self-evaluation which was completed on an ongoing basis. Strengths were evident: in relationships; where local authorities have embedded the standards in their strategies, policies, and practices; where CARM processes and multi-agency partnership approaches to risk are embedded; while there is considerable investment in care planning before and during periods of secure care, additional work is needed for transitions and moving on; and advocacy and legal support has increased putting children at the heart of decisions. A lot of progress has been made in trauma-informed approaches including ensuring that services are environmentally trauma aware. The Standards have encouraged an evolution that has included a bespoke approach to supporting some children who are neurodiverse. However, further access to resources and training is needed; access to increased mental health support within the community continues to be an area for development.

Arrivals have seen significant progress, with most children entering secure care through the front door and pre-admission planning taking place ahead of this. The sharing of walk rounds, or video familiarisation work was viewed as putting children at more ease. Work has also been evident in ensuring that children leave with the same people who supported their arrival, promoting relational practice that continues over time – however, there is recognition that this practice is not consistent nationally.

### The Secure Care Champions subgroups

A short life working group was set up to develop a Standards example template where organisations could evidence good practice that could be shared nationally.

A further group worked to develop a checklist for social workers that provides a guide to practical tasks for those less familiar with the secure care process. This helped to highlight concerns raised around preparation before a child arrived at secure care.

The secure transport for children subgroup from the secure care group conducted its sixth meeting on 20 June. Data was collected over a three-month period from the Scottish Government and independent secure care providers enabling generalisations to be made that can inform tenders for national provision. The national secure transport specification will be updated in the coming weeks.

### Dates for the diary

Standards Champions Group Meetings		Secure Care Practitioners Forum	
4 July 2023	13.00 – 14.30	31 July 2023	14.00 – 15.00
22 August 2023	13.00 – 14.30	28 September 2023	14.00 – 15.00
26 September 2023	13.00 – 14.30	30 November 2023	14.00- 15.00
7 November 2023	13.00 – 14.30		
19 December 2023	13.00 – 14.30		

### Other useful resources

[Depriving and restricting liberty for children and young people in care home school care and secure accommodation services.pdf \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

[hearings-for-children-the-redesign-report.pdf \(thepromise.scot\)](#)

[Secure care pathway review 2022-23 \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

[Stage 1 Report for Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Bill | Scottish Parliament](#)

[Statistics & useful info - SCCR \(scottishconflictresolution.org.uk\)](#)