

Welcome to our first newsletter!

One of the challenges of working within a specialist national organization with differing local authorities and charities and with no overarching leadership is that our comms can be a bit disjointed. Recent communication has dramatically improved with the creation of our bi-weekly SCH Check-in and weekly SCH Joint Partnership call ins but this only addresses communication with senior managers and not with those other colleagues that we work with.

With this in mind SAN will publish a quarterly 6-8 page newsletter that highlights issues, celebrations, activities, initiatives, challenges, research and successes within our services.

Newsletters only work if we have a wide range of submissions as well as a interested readership and with this in mind, this inaugural newsletter and all future editions will be circulated to all colleagues who work within SCH's as well as interested and key stakeholders.

Hope you enjoy the following read and any suggestions or contributions from SCH colleagues would be gratefully welcomed and appreciated.....Thanks to Barton Moss young people for their art work on page 3 and to Swanwick Lodge for choosing the successful peer selected title for our new newsletter.Happy reading!

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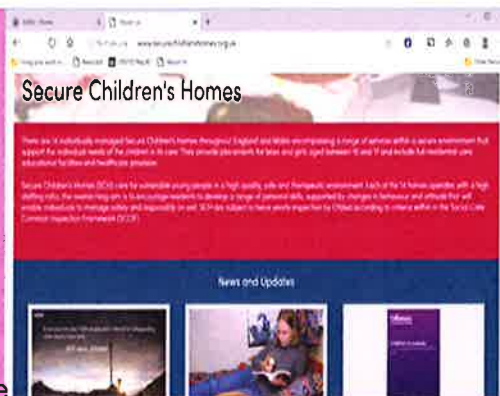
New SAN Website

SAN have recently refreshed and updated the Secure Childrens Home website.

You can now see the full range of homes, location and a brief summary of the services provided within individual homes. The website will be updated regularly to include news, reports, guidance and research on issues, practice and learning related to Secure Childrens homes. In addition vacant post adverts as well as learning and outcomes from any work that homes have commissioned or delivered in which progress and development can be clearly evidenced.

Submissions should be sent to Tony Quinn, SAN Secretary..... (anthony.quinn@hants.gov.uk)

Copy the following link into your favourites bar and happy reading-
<http://www.securechildrenshomes.org.uk/>



"Quote of the Year"!

In relation to the positive comments about Barton Moss's young peoples art work and the possible links between Mike Lowry (Centre Manager – Barton Moss) and the renowned Manchester artist LS Lowry.....

....."My dad, grandad, great grandad, were artists.....just not the type that put paint to canvas"

SAN response to "Race Thematic 2020"



The YCS are currently undertaking research into "Race" issues in relation to the secure estate.

Essentially the audit will focus on the experiences and outcomes for BAME children and young people in secure care. It will consider:-

- a) *•how leaders across YCS sites promote a culture of diversity and inclusion;*
- b) *•the systems and processes in place to identify and respond to diverse needs;*
- c) *•the impact of relationships between staff and children and the quality of staff engagement*

SCH Managers from YCS contracted units recently met with YCS colleagues to discuss the involvement of SCH's within this valued research, however there was a unanimous view of disappointment from SCH colleagues at the approach the YCS has taken in developing and commissioning this piece of work without any reference to SCH's. The collective view was that at this point SCH's would not be involved within this research but welcomed further discussion on this issue in order to come to some form of future agreement on SCH's involvement in the scoping process of future YCS based research into the needs of young people within our care.

Workforce Development

Darren Beattie, Manager at Atkinson Unit recently met with colleagues from the Independent Childrens Homes Association (ICHA), and the DfE lead for Workforce Development and reports two key themes arising from the forum:-

- A consensus that the current level 3 and 5 diplomas were no longer fit for purpose
- The need to set up an independent professional body for residential care staff .

These points are shared by number of colleagues within our sector and will soon be discussed by the SAN Core Group as part of our planning for the future.

Any ideas on workforce development, joint working and multidisciplinary training would be welcomed and should be forwarded to Mike Vaughan, SAN Rep for Policy and Workforce Development.

(mike.vaughan@salford.gov.uk)

Sad Goodbyes...Fond Farewells

Helen Simmons and Karen Wedmore have both decided to call it a day as the Registered Managers of both Lansdowne SCH and Hillside SCH respectively. Karen and Helen have over 40 years combined experience of working with children looked after and have brought a wealth of expertise to the young people and staff in their care under their leadership.

Helen is leaving to go over to the "dark side" and will commence her new role as a Social Care Regulatory Inspector with OfSTEDThis may be a first for a secure children's home manager. SAN welcomes her temporary replacement, Ian Williams to the fold. Whilst Karen is retiring to the sunny valleys of Wales. We all wish them well in the coming months and the future.

Amendment to the Childrens Commissioners Report

In the recently published Childrens Commissioners Report,

"The children who no-one knows what to do with (Briefing November 2020), reference on page 9 to Adel Beck being consistently graded OUTSTANDING.....Please note that this is incorrect. Adel Beck where judged as OUTSTANDING from April 2015 to January 2020. The home is now judged as GOOD overall with OUTSTANDING Education.

Children's
COMMISSIONER

**The children who no-one
knows what to do with**

Briefing
November 2020

SAN Core Group Elections.....Many thanks to Dave (Lincolnshire). Melanie (Clare Lodge) and Phillippa (Lansdowne) for their sterling work on the core group in promoting SAN at a national level in the past few years. Octobers elections resulted in the following colleagues being elected as new SAN Core Group Members:-

Francis N'Jie, Chair (Adel Beck), **Darren Beattie**, Vice Chair (Atkinson), **Alison Sykes**, Treasurer (Vinney Green), **Mike Vaughan**, Policy and Workforce Development (Barton Moss), **Tony Quinn**, Secretary (Swanwick Lodge), **Gill Laird**, SANed Chair (Adel Beck), and **Aileen Conlon**, SANed Vice Chair (Aycliffe).

The Louvre at Barton Moss



SAN FOCUS:

Each Edition of "The SANctuary" will focus on a colleague who works within a secure children's home. In this edition, please meet **Nabila Morris** from Adel Beck SCH (Leeds).



Nabila was part of the project team who first built Adel Beck in 2015, and continues to work there as their Deputy Service Manager. Nabila has line management of each of the three house units, and has responsibility for the care of all the young people. Speaking about her experiences of working at Adel Beck, she says there are some moments that signify a real sense of achievement; "Every time a young person leaves happy and ready to move on to their next placement, gives you a hug and says 'thank you' it is an achievement for the team". In Nabila's role she is also responsible for the centre's contract management, Capital Grants submissions, and Commissioning.

"We have achieved our ambition if we made them feel safe, and built genuine and meaningful relationships with them"

Nabila was the first black woman to have been appointed into her senior post in a secure children's homes in the UK and speaking about the significance of this she has mixed outlooks; **"On one hand this feels significant and I am proud of what I have achieved, on the other hand it shouldn't be significant nor should it be MY success - it should be normal!"**. She explains that the merit of BAME women should be actively promoted in the secure estate; "it highlights to me that the secure estate lacks diversity in its leadership structures... the value women, specifically BAME women in strategic leadership roles, can bring to such institutions is not recognised". Having recently joined the national working group for the Cultural Cohesion Quality Mark (CCQM), Nabila is the lead on this for Adel Beck.

As a qualified Project Manager, Nabila is the lead for the Kaizen Initiative (Continuous Improvement Model) at Adel Beck, and has over 20 years of Youth Justice Resources Management experience.

Speaking of the work undertaken with young people at Adel Beck, Nabila says she is proud of the care and positive outcomes that are achieved; "Everything we do is to help and support young people who are often traumatised and have had negative life experiences. We enable young people to feel safe, have fun and to develop emotionally, behaviourally and educationally. And hopefully go on to make better life choices, have confidence, higher levels of self-esteem and successfully progress into adulthood".

Contact us at SAN

For more information about the purpose, function and services available within SCH's

Email: SAN@securechildrenshomes.org.uk

OR

Web: www.securechildrenshomes.org.uk