

RENYO (Re-ENGaging Young Offenders):



RENYO (Re-ENGaging Young Offenders) is a Trans- European Project funded and led by the University of Gloucester.

It has involved working with partner organisations in Spain, Italy and Germany to develop and refine a strategic approach for one to one work with young people who have displayed significant disengagement from education and learning. The approach centres largely around the concept of **Authentic Inquiry**.

Vinney Green SCH (South Gloucester) has been actively involved in the RENYO project for over two years. Andy Watch, Deputy Head Teacher at Vinney Green SCH, has been trained as a trainer in this methodology and has subsequently now trained 7 staff at Vinney Green to undertake the work with young people. Although early days and the numbers successfully completing the project have been small (mainly due to staffing & Covid issues rather than disinterest from young people), positive impact has already been seen and evidenced. The next cohort are eagerly awaiting to start the project and will do so imminently. So if anything related to RENYO arrives in your in-tray, take a closer look!!!!

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The Challenges and Role of Education Provision within Secure Childrens Homes:



Whilst there is a statutory element to the provision of education in Secure Children's Homes, there is also a fundamental interdependence between positive learning experiences that engage young people to achieve transferable skills and qualifications, with successful transition and resettlement within the community. Where young people have engaged in education and had their needs met within a secure setting, it leads to lower rates of re-offending, less risk taking behaviours and increased levels pro-social identity when they return to the community. This is key for all young people, but especially so for our older cohorts as prior to entering our homes, the overwhelming majority of them have been disenfranchised from

education provision either through permanent exclusion or by not having their educational needs met, this could be argued as being a contributory factor in their involvement in the crimes or risk taking behaviours that have led to them being accommodated within an SCH.

SCH education teams keep a vast array of academic and attitudinal progress data and progress and attainment are measured against national age related progress and attainment data as well as expected progress for our particular organisations, which on average is significantly higher than that of mainstream provision. This is vital when young people are preparing to leave to ensure appropriate education, employment or training placements can be secured. SCHs offer a range of more academic subjects focussing on literacy and numeracy acquisition, whilst also offering as many vocational subjects as they can.

Subjects can be built upon when they leave, either in school or more often in FE provision, again, **when purposeful education or training placements are in place it dramatically reduces the risk of young people returning to the secure estate or high support residential provision.** Securing additional support for young people who may need 1:1, are on an EHCP or intensive catch up provision is a complex issue, not least of which because all SEND matters are dealt with by education departments of each local authority. The 2015 SEND Code of Practice is ambiguous for young people placed in secure provision, as it is interpreted differently by each Local Authority. SAN are focussing on how we can better share best practice in order to secure additional support our young people may need whilst they are with us, but most importantly when they leave.

Trauma Informed Practice for Children & Young People in Secure Settings:

Atkinson Secure Children's Home has been leading on a training project which commenced two years ago in partnership with professionals across the **Children and Young People Secure Estate (CYPSE)**.

NHS England funded, the project is part of the **SECURE STAIRS** framework. In **Secure Children's Homes (SCH)** it is a statutory requirement for all care staff to complete a level 3 Diploma in Children's Residential Care within two years of commencing their careers within a children's home.

This course helps staff to understand the behaviours they are dealing with every day and ultimately, how they should care for a young person who is recovering from trauma. As a children's home, Atkinson Unit believed that they could produce an equivalent qualification which would help staff to fully understand why children present with 'risky' behaviours and more importantly, provide ways of working which enabled staff to remain compassionate, caring and emotionally resilient.

Darren Beattie (Registered Manager) is pleased to say that after lots of hard work they now have an alternative level 3 Diploma in **Trauma Informed Practice for Children & Young People in Secure Settings** for the CYPSE. The course is accredited through NCFE and offers three types of certificates upon completion of the Award:

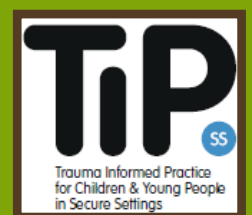
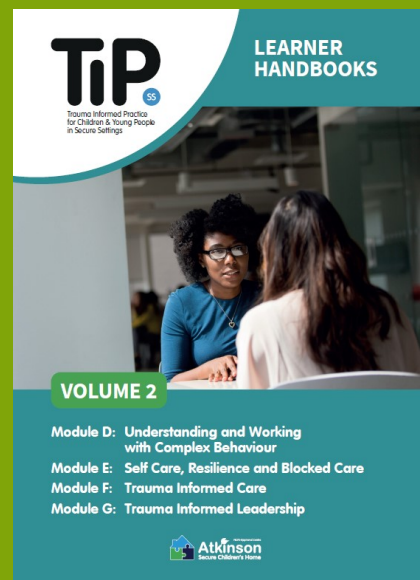
- **Level 3 Award**
- **Level 3 Diploma**
- **Level 4 Award (Supervisors and /or Managers)**

To obtain certificates for the Awards, candidates will need to attend internal training for all modules A-F (G for supervisors and managers, level 4). The modules will be delivered jointly by a clinician (CAMHS) and an operational manager. It should take approximately 7 days to complete all modules.

For the Diploma, employees will need to provide evidence for a portfolio based on what candidates do each day. There is not a requirement for lengthy essays ...instead evidence such as direct work, formulation meetings, emails, team meetings minutes, supervision notes will be collated within the portfolio.

There are seven training modules contained within the Award:

Module A	-	Introducing SECURE STAIRS
Module B	-	Attachment and Developmental Trauma
Module C	-	Child and Adolescent Development
Module D	-	Understanding and Working with Complex Behaviour
Module E	-	Self Care, Resiliency & Blocked Care
Module F	-	Trauma Informed Care



Course materials will soon be circulated across the CYPSE electronically and printed hard copies of learner and trainer handbooks will be available to all settings.

The role of SCHs in the life journeys of children and young people with complex needs: A four nations exploration



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SAN have given a commitment to a four nations collaborative piece of research to "Explore, Compare and Understand the Role of SCHs in Children and Peoples Life Journeys". Annie Williams, Emma Miller and Suzanne Mooney provided a briefing to Core Group members. Research Questions will include..... (1) What are the policy/procedures surrounding SCH across the 4 nations & how do they differ and are they likely to affect Children and young peoples experiences and outcomes? (2) What are the structure, ethos, environments and models of care in UK SCHs? (3) How do Children and Young People describe their experiences in SCH's? (4) How well are positive effects maintained after SCH placements and what factors affect this? This is an appreciative, collaborative study that is still awaiting an agreed funding stream as well as ethics committee approval.....but watch this space as we will all be involved at some point.....More information can be sought from Darren Beattie (Atkinson SCH).

QUICK BITS!!!

- + SAN have agreed to work with the DfE and NHS in **revising the current Covid Pandemic Guidance**.
- + **Lincolnshire Unit** remain on track in becoming the first SCH in the UK to implement the MMPR Behaviour Management model in June 2021.
- + All secure children's homes are now actively involved in rolling out the **NHS Digital funded and Phoenix Partnership, (TPP) project managed "NHS System One"** for the recording of administration of medication.
- + SAN guidance relating to s25 CA 1989 referral process has been updated by SWCU who are offering training to LA's that are struggling with the referral process.
- + The YCS are organising a **Youth Inclusion Month** in August and have invited all secure establishments to offer suggestions for activities.....Ideas please!
- + OfSTED are implementing a **new Education Inspection Framework** in Secure Childrens Homes in April 2021 with the caveat of there being a 12-month grace period for full implementation.
- + SAN are becoming increasingly concerned at being named and incorporated as being part of the HMPPS dominated Secure Estate when **fundamentally and in law SCH's are Childrens Homes** regulated by OfSTED under the Quality Standards and Childrens Homes Regulations 2015.

A beautiful, lovely and well scripted poem from "A" at Aycliffe SCH who has recently achieved her Level 1 and 2 in Functional Skills in English....And we can see why! Enjoy and read.....

The Second Chance:

We may not have the means at hand,
to change our circumstances.
But we may gain, to our relief,
welcome second chances.

A chance to prove that we will try,
with all our might and main,
to change our ways, to right some wrong,
and pull our weight again.

So let us thank the generous people,
who overlook our lives,
and put their trust in our success,
where once we failed at times.

A second chance will bring results,
whatever comes our way,
for in the meantime we have learned
a little more each day.

"So this is a thank you to Aycliffe."

The Pan-London Secure Childrens Home Project has now been agreed by all of the 33 London boroughs and a bid for phase 1 funding will be made in the next few weeks to the DfE.

The project aims to build 24 welfare beds on 1 or 2 sites with room for a further 12 Justice beds. The key objective of the project is enable as many young people from London and the South East to stay close to their family and communities and in doing so improve their chances of successfully integrating back in to local education and supported opportunities.

Pan-London Secure Homes will dovetail with a new cross-regional residential project to enable meaningful stepdown opportunities throughout London.

Adel Beck's new "Sensory Seed Pod" or is it an Egg?



Biagio (Care), Amy and Gill (Education) testing out and choosing colours for seating.

With 299 cameras around the site, it can be difficult for both staff and young people to feel sufficiently comfortable and relaxed in order that they are able to fully invest in the interventions or therapeutic programmes they require. We know that....

- a) **Light affects our circadian rhythms, our daily body clock, impacting on our wellbeing.** Some measured benefits from LED lighting include healthier brains, deeper sleep, improved concentration and energy. Light can lower stress and increase motivation.
- b) Sound also impacts on our sense of wellbeing. **Sound can re-balance the body's energy and have a tangible effect on our productivity and outlook.** Low level and natural sounds are known to increase focus and reduce stress; healing, calming, and aiding relaxation.

The **Seed Pod** will enhance our work by creating a unique, variable lighting and sound sensory space (included within the Pod) for young people and staff to utilise as part of our intervention strategy.

By being able to control light and sound in a safe and sensorially secure space provides the notion of privacy, whilst conforming to the homes' necessary CCTV procedures, will significantly improve our capacity to support young people who find it difficult to function within the secure environment. Staff will also benefit from the Seed Pod as working with challenging, traumatised young people also need a safe, quiet, private place to carry out clinical supervision, or to just to be alone for a few moments. Many thanks to Leeds Community Healthcare Trust (LCHT) and Health and Justice for fully funding this initiative.



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 **David Burn** from **Kyloe House SCH, Northumberland**).



David is a Residential Shift Co-ordinator at Kyloe House. He has been married for 5 years and is the Dad to 2 daughters, one of which also works at Kyloe House.

He started in 2002, and left to work in an open children's home in 2012. Due to missing the "hustle and bustle of the secure environment", he returned in 2016.

As a young boy, David played for West Bromwich Albion and Oxford United until he was 18, and then carried on with this passion for football through refereeing. David then went on to work as a baker at Greggs for 17 years.



Whilst at Kyloe, David realised his passion in helping and educating young people and subsequently established his own business called "**BE SAFE**". David delivers sessions throughout the North East in establishments including schools, referral units. He has helped to educate children and young people on Cannabis Awareness, Knife crime and street safety, Bullying Awareness, County Lines and CSE and grooming.

BE SAFE work in partnership with the Home Office and have been training trainers from all over the UK to deliver these workshops in schools colleges and other group settings where they can access young people. The workshops form part of a five year national strategy which aims to reduce the number of young people that are placing themselves in dangerous situations while they are out in the community.



These workshops have been used to great effect in areas of London since 1998 and have now been taken on by other major cities and towns around the UK. The eventual aim is to deliver the **BE SAFE** workshops to all school age children.

Since March 2009 **BE SAFE** North East has educated over **45,000** children and young people in the Northumberland, North Tyneside, Sunderland and Durham areas.

This is an amazing achievement by David and is a great example of how staff impact not only on young people within secure children's homes, but also influence people within the community which is the most effective preventative process for reducing young people becoming part of the youth justice system as well as reducing the number of potential victims of youth crime.

The **Secure Accommodation Network** welcomes two new managers to the network.....

Ian Williams is now the Registered Manager at Lansdowne Secure Childrens Home in East Sussex that provides section 25 Children Act 1989 placements as well as to **Chris Frey-Davies**, the new Manager at Hillside SCH (Wales) that provides both Section 25 and YCS placements. Welcome to the madding crowd!

Contact us at SAN

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

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OR

Web: www.securechildrenshomes.org.uk

Next Edition: Friday 30 April 2021.....

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