

SAN Planning For The Future

The 2023 SAN Leadership & Management Event will be taking place in Birmingham, from the 18th September 2023. This follows the success of the inaugural event, which saw dozens of delegates attending from many SCHs.

This year's three day event will be even more ambitious, with almost double the number of delegates. Topics for discussion include conscious inclusion, intent-based leadership and effective inspection preparation.

Long-term feedback collected from the 2022 event shows 85% of attendees felt the event had significantly improved their overall practice. With increased attendance this year, it is hoped that the event can continue to help SCHs plan for the future and develop the leaders of tomorrow.



A selection of pictures from the 2022 Leadership & Management Event

Earlier this year, SAN also hosted their largest ever National Conference. All fourteen Secure Children's Homes in England and Wales were represented and again, the event was considered a massive success.



Discussions flowed richly during the SAN National Conference in May 2023

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Redemption

*Behind these doors we stand,
Sand of time drips through
our hands,
Yutes form into gangs,
Thoughts of future plans
Sat in court,
After getting caught,
My innocence I fought,
For the charges they brought*

*The gates opened, I'm free
Free to go for a cup of tea,
Finally brought back the key,
Tell probation I don't need
therapy*

*Paid back my fee to society,
The world's beauty I now
see,
Redemption*

A poem written by a young person at Vinney Green and published in 'Empowered 2022 — Whispered Words'

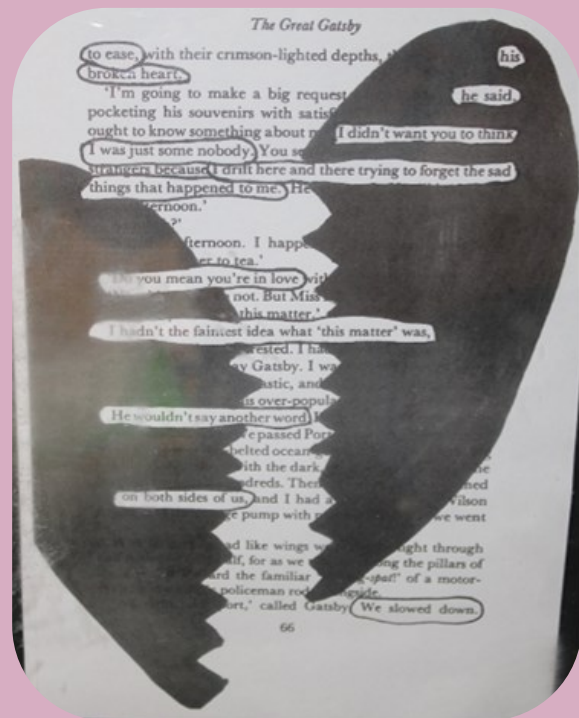
Clayfields House Achieve Art Award Success

Each year over 3,500 people in custody and in the criminal justice system within the community, share their creative work by taking part in The Koestler Awards.

Young People at Clayfield's House recently entered a selection of their own works from their English, Design and Technology and Art portfolios. In a number of different categories, young people successfully received a variety of prestigious awards, commendations and high commendations. One young person even received a cash prize and special award for her poetry.



Painting entitled 'Don't Mess'



Poem entitled 'Unknown Love'

Some entries included paintings (within the fine arts category), poetry (within the writing category), song lyrics (also within the writing category) and furniture (within the craft and design category). Every award was returned to the entrants with personalised feedback from the expert that judged the category. The poem 'Unknown Love' was cited as "a work of duality", recognising the intent to bring a feeling of "destructiveness and mournful remembering" that was "captivating, enigmatic and deeply intriguing". The young people loved this feedback and found it constructive, supportive and encouraging. The entrants reflected that they had relished the opportunity and now have more belief in their ability to be 'creative' and share their creativity with others.

New Experiences at Clare Lodge

Clare Lodge SCH have been able to utilise DfE funding for the provision of an upgrade/refurb of their existing fitness suite room and facilities, as well as a new games arcade room.

Debbie Lobley (Business Support & Facilities Manager) said, “We updated the colours, installed all-new equipment including cardio and traversing walls, upgraded media system and showering facilities. The idea behind this project was to encourage the more reluctant of the young people to come and enjoy the interactive equipment and sounds on offer. So far it has proved to be very popular.

“For the arcade, we began looking at making a lounge area that young people could go and enjoy and for a short period of time forget their troubles. What started on the drawing board as a ‘60s diner evolved into a fun arcade with all the lights and sounds. Again, this has proved to be a very popular activity for the young people. Access to this area is limited to several days a week for individuals - which keeps it special. There have been modifications to the equipment to make them more user friendly and safer for young people.”



Blooming Marvellous!

It’s been 16 months in the waiting and eventually, Kylloe House SCH has held the official re-opening of Willow Sports Court. The area has undergone quite a transformation with a new 4G surface with tennis facilities as well as football goals. A football volleyball court was also fitted into the surface. The outdoor area has had raised planters built to form a distinct border between leisure and sporting activity.

A grand opening day took place in July 2023 consisting of an outdoor buffet followed by sporting activities. The day was well received by the young people and staff alike (not hampered by the weather!). Plans are afoot to make good use of the area with outdoor BBQs, fair days and sporting competitions throughout the rest of the year.



Unlocking Potential

For many young people, the transition into employment within an increasingly complex and competitive labour market, is not straightforward. Employers report that many young people struggle to demonstrate the skills they need from a modern workforce.

Data for children looked after show that those who were looked after during secondary school have a lower probability of being in employment, are likely to have lower earnings when employed and have a higher dependency on out-of-work benefits than all individuals.

Young people themselves can feel hopeless, and for those in secure accommodation, especially when they have been sentenced, the chance of any employment, let alone a career that they find fulfilling and enjoyable, can seem impossible.

At Aycliffe Secure Centre, work has been ongoing in an attempt to challenge this. A partnership has been established with the DWP, whose representatives deliver sessions to young people that aim to help them understand and navigate the various routes into employment, and what they can expect once they have a job.



With their support, a Careers Information and Guidance event was held with representatives from across a range of sectors attending the day-long event, which provided a real opportunity for young people, parents and carers, and staff to network and learn from experienced professionals around the world of work.

Staff from Job Centre and DWP will be continuing to work with young people at Aycliffe to ensure these skills are taught and practised across all Key Stages. This will also provide evidence for the Gatsby Benchmarks, particularly ‘encounters with employers’, which is typically harder to gain.

Repeated exposure to the expectations and benefits of employment will hopefully build self-esteem and enable young people to have the confidence to compete with other candidates and seek economic independence and a means of contributing to society by fulfilling their life aspirations.

The employers were emphatic in their praise for young people and what they can achieve at Aycliffe:

“As manager of NHS England Choices College: Darlington it was great to be invited along to Aycliffe Secure Centre, it is amazing to see the work that goes on, to provide the learners the options to create their own goals in line for their future. All staff that I met had the groups best interests at heart.”

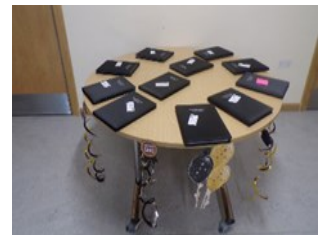
Celebrating Graduation & Clayfest

At Clayfields House there are two huge, annual events that residents look forward to: Graduation and Clayfest!

Graduation 2023

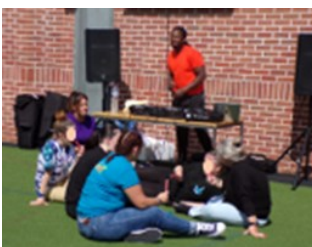
This year at Clayfields we held our second annual graduation day for our residents. This day presents us with an opportunity to celebrate the achievements our young people have made throughout the year and showcase their hard work. Our residents spent the morning getting glammed up and ready for their graduation ceremony which took place in our assembly hall. They were each given a gown and favours upon arrival. Each young person had a speech delivered by their teachers before receiving a personalised file which included certificates and messages from their key team and the different departments they work with.

As requested by our young people and to reward all of their hard work, we ended the day with fun and games...which included an inflatable obstacle course!



Clayfest 2023

For Clayfest this year, our residents spent the morning with Roy the Magician, took part in a music and motivation workshop, baked some goodies in Rose's bakery, played wheelchair basketball and fairground games. The day ended with a music set in our big yard where we all listened to an amazing piece of music some of our residents had recorded earlier in the day, alongside a performance from Stan!



Creating A ‘Buzz’ At Vinney Green

Work is almost complete on a new ‘Bee Aware’ area at Vinney Green (South Gloucestershire). This project has been funded by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) as part of their Bee Pollinator Fund, which has been created to support community-led ecology projects that enhance biodiversity and pollinator habitats across the West of England region.

Formerly a courtyard containing exercise equipment, the Bee Aware area now hosts an outdoor classroom, sensory path and even an infinity river! Young people have been able to assist with some elements of the design and implementation of the area. Small elements of construction remain as well as the planting of greenery to create a relaxing and peaceful environment.

The project has been led by Scott Elliott who is Vinney Green’s Forest School & Horticulture Instructor. Scott said, “the young people have been involved all the way through this process. This was a really good opportunity to increase their knowledge of the environment and give them something they can take away with them when they eventually leave us.”



Contact us at SAN

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