

## A Bright Year For SCHs

**2024 promises to be a great year for teamwork and progress within the Secure Accommodation Network.**

Finishing touches are being made to arrangements for the 2024 SAN Conference, to be held during May in Birmingham. This is an annual opportunity for leaders within SCHs to meet and network, with speakers planned to focus on the differences we make as professionals to the children that we care for.



This summer will bring the second edition of our SAN Games, where the togetherness of homes will temporarily make way for friendly rivalry! Last year saw success for **Aycliffe**, who won the most medals overall — still hotly debated by **Adel Beck**, who won the most gold medals!



Our third, 3-day Leadership & Management event will get underway in September and we expect to reach the incredible milestone of our hundredth attendee. This will be a huge achievement and a reflection of the passion and impetus in supporting staff working within the Secure Accommodation Network and our commitment to their development.

The year will be seen out with our Winter Conference, typically occurring in November. Another opportunity for networking and reflection on what we sincerely hope will be a great year for all of our members!

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# **Icebreaker Keeps Homeless Warm in Manchester**

This year, Ellie Smith from Barton Moss Secure Children's Centre, Manchester took part in the Crisis Icebreaker Challenge which involved a cold dip a day, throughout the whole of January to raise money for Crisis, with a group who have been doing it for the past 6 years. This will be their 7<sup>th</sup> year and they've raised £143K in those years. This year they raised a staggering £13,494!

Ellie has been cold water swimming for 4 years (all year round), in only her swimsuit, even when she has had to smash the ice to get into the water, but she has never dipped every day. Ellie explains that it's always been at her leisure, so this was challenging but she kept in mind that "after each dip I get to go home and shower and get in warm clothes, and the people I am doing this for don't have that option!" She continued "I absolutely loved the challenge, and to be completing it with a group of people who all supported each other was imperative. The coldest scariest dip was the ice dip, we had to use an axe to break a



hole in the frozen reservoir. I will definitely be doing it again next year!" **Crisis UK thanked her personally and wrote:**



*"Thank you so much for taking part in your incredible challenge of daily cold-water dips in January to raise awareness and money for Crisis. I also want to thank you for all you do with local press and media – raising*

*awareness is so important and each piece you do is so moving and a joy to watch. I share regularly with my team and our wider department because I think everyone should know about The January Daily Dippers!"*

*This Christmas we worked with over 6,600 people facing homelessness through our day centres and hotels in London, and Crisis Skylight centres across Britain. We must keep doing that until no one is at risk of homelessness anymore, we can only do that with support from people like you. So, thank you once again."*

**Very best wishes for a drier and warmer February, Alice.**

If you would still like to donate, please click on the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/januarydailydip2024>

# Tokyo



# Visits

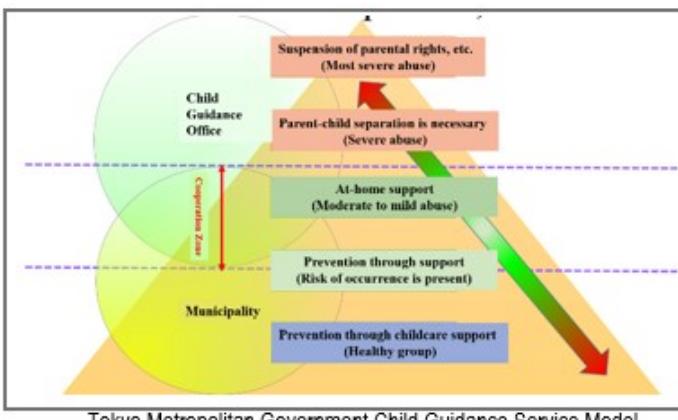


# Yorkshire

Adel Beck Secure Children's Home (Leeds) were visited by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Child Guidance Office (TMGCGO), which is the Japanese version of managing child protection related cases and incidents. It is heavily based on psychological models of care and is not dissimilar to SECURE STAIRS and the integrated care principles and framework used in secure children's homes in the UK. Their staff are either Psychologists or qualified Social Workers.

The TMGCGO visited the UK as part of a field study from the end of February to the beginning of March 2024. Their purpose was to visit child welfare facilities, learn about various initiatives in this field and use this information to improve Japan's welfare standards. Most of the visitors were from the child protection field and they came to learn through the exchange of ideas which would have a "mutual benefit" to both Adel Beck and the TMGCGO.

Adel Beck delivered a presentation on the purpose of the home and how we used DDP and PACE principles as part of our integrated care model. Mr. Akitomo Takahashi, Specialist and Director and his psychologist colleagues (TMGCGO) were particularly interested in how managers who had high levels of responsibility in being accountable for managing risk, where supported and managed the stresses that such leadership roles presented.



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Child Guidance Service Model

This was an unusual discussion as most similar discussions relate to how managers support staff and how staff support young people. It did show that in Japan, there is a high level of support and recognition that being a senior manager in this area of work requires recognition and different types of support for leaders who can never really "switch off" even when not at work... Some food for thought!

A tour of the home was well received by the young people; one who took on the role of a "tour guide" explaining how Adel Beck functions and how he responded to the education and care that he received whilst being with us...heartwarming stuff it was.

Finally, the exchange of presents was well received by both Adel Beck and Mr. Takahashi.

For some unknown coincidental reason, we both exchanged "tea" related gifts. Adel Beck offered a mixture of Yorkshire tea, chocolate (never knew there was such a thing) and mugs with the TMGCGO providing Japanese tea & confectionery.



Rachel Buckland, Casework and Interventions Manager (left), hosting our visitors with Mr. Akitomo Takahashi, Specialist and Director (far right)

**Mina ni totte subarashi tsuitahideshita!**

# A Busy Winter at Lincolnshire...

It has been a busy few months at Lincolnshire Secure Unit, where colleagues have worked hard to celebrate a multitude of events with our young people.

We were honoured to receive a visit from '**'Round Midnight Ltd'** during October Half Term – they offer a range of VR workshops and creative PSHE curriculum's that are designed to transform young people's learning and tackle important social issues.

We enjoyed creating autumnal wreath's which YP's chose to gift to their own family members, some also gifted theirs to our local Community Larder. During November we learnt about and celebrated Diwali. We learnt about the '**Celebration of Light**' and even created our own Diva lamps!

We raised vital funds for Children in Need by hosting a non uniform day – YP's donated Golden Credits and wore t-shirts they had designed themselves whilst staff came to work dressed up in Pudsey attire and had their faces painted by YP's. We hosted a cake sale selling goods the YP's had baked. In total we raised **£65**.

During December we took part in the '**Spread the Peace**' campaign by creating a peace chain which later on featured

as décor at our annual Christmas Celebration Day.

On this day we celebrated our pupil's achievements with an assembly and certificate giving. Young people, all staff and OFSTED enjoyed breakfast cooked by our Young People. We decorated our Christmas tree, designed baubles, took part in a tombola, designed t-shirts, played juice pong, took part in a quiz, baked and



decorated Christmas biscuits, enjoyed treats created by our fabulous kitchen staff and we were treated to a turkey roll lunch with all the trimmings.



# Hillside Celebrate in Style!



In observance of Universal Children's Day, Hillside (the only Secure Children's Home in Wales) arranged a variety of child centred events with the help of other organisations and professionals. Among them were a Spoken Word Artist, a Local Counsellor, and an Engagement and Participation Officer from Neath Port Talbot Children and Youth Council.

The first activity was called "Protect the Egg," and it served as a resettlement exercise to prepare the children in readiness to leave Hillside.

The activity involved using lollipop sticks to construct a "nest" in which the children would write different areas and avenues they felt would be most beneficial and impactful to them and help them succeed following their transition. These included, a trusted adult, access to education, co-produced innovations, safe and supportive communities



and easy access to expertise.

The aim of the activity was that each child was their egg and the areas on the sticks that created their nest would protect them and keep them safe when they leave Hillside. After completing the activity, they then had some fun smashing their eggs and were able to enjoy a treat at the end!

Following this, a local spoken word artist facilitated a group to sum up the 'art' of the day and created a rap/poem including all the young people and their attributes. All children and staff from Hillside took part and they really enjoyed!



# Vinney Green Construct a Better Future With MCS

A new and exciting collaboration between MCS and Vinney Green Secure Children's Home will help young people gain valuable insights into a career in the construction industry. Danielle Haskings and Veda Hill, Social Value team & Enterprise Advisor, have been working with Rona Chellew (Careers Leader) in coordinating a series of activities aimed at raising aspirations & helping their young people with the skills & knowledge needed for employment.

One of the key initiatives organised by the partnership is the Careers Carousel, scheduled during the recent National Careers Week. The event will see local construction organisations participating to showcase apprenticeship programmes, work experience opportunities, and various career paths available in the construction sector. Acorn Recruitment, a local business, will also be actively involved, offering guidance on crafting effective CVs and honing interview techniques.



Construction Skills Certification Scheme

A highlight of National Apprenticeship Week was the visit of local business owner Junior Saunders, who transformed his life from a background in care to becoming a successful business owner. He will share his personal journey and discuss the importance of mindset and belief. Notably, he will shed light on how a criminal record did not hinder his path to success, serving as an inspiring example for the young individuals at Vinney Green.

A requirement to a career in the construction industry is a **CSCS** card. MCS has supported Vinney Green in becoming a registered **CSCS** card examination centre and the availability of this will have a significant impact on the young person's employability. This initiative ensures that the young people at Vinney Green have the opportunity to obtain their CSCS cards before leaving, making them fully prepared for the workforce.

The **CSCS** card, widely recognised in the construction industry, is a valuable asset for those seeking employment in this field. This new collaboration between MCS and Vinney Green Secure Children's Home is a testament to the power of community engagement and social value in fostering positive change. We envisage that this will be the start of a strong and long-term relationship that will provide mentorship, resources, and practical support, so that both organisations are contributing to the development of a skilled and empowered workforce for the future.



# There's Snow Fun like Panto Fun at Swanwick Lodge

Reece Phippen, a Senior Tutor at Swanwick Lodge, reports on Christmas festivities down in Hampshire.....

As part of our December enrichment programme, the young people at Swanwick wrote, practised, and performed their very own Christmas pantomime

called, 'Snow White and the Seven Support Workers'. The show was stacked full of the young people, care and education staff, all of whom had spent weeks perfecting their roles. The show was written by the young people, with support from Zoe Lewis, who created a cross-over pantomime which included: Snow White, Cinderella, and Dick Whittington.

The story told of a young girl's journey to London escaping the evil clutches of her wicked stepmother! On her journey she encountered a variety of characters and even spent a night at Swanwick Lodge on her adventure.



To showcase all their efforts, Swanwick invited local managers and staff from Hampshire County Council and further afield, to watch the performance.



For the show to be a success, the young people had spent time learning their lines, creating set designs and rehearsing. In addition to their panto practice, in the build-up, the young people had spent their enrichment time creating gift bags to sell, in order to



raise money for charity. They created bags of peppermint creams, bath bombs, dog treats and a huge variety of delicious fudges; all of which were sold and all of which were eaten! All the proceeds were donated to their chosen charity – **Action for Children**. They felt that this was a perfect choice because of all the supportive work they do.

We look forward to an even bigger production in Christmas 2024



## Staff Profile



Each edition of “**The SANctuary**” will focus on a colleague who works within a secure children's home. In this edition, please meet Megan Sheridan from Adel Beck SCH, Leeds.

Megan is the Office Manager at Adel Beck where she started working in 2014 as an Admin Assistant.

The admin team went through a period of short staffing. During this time Megan had to adopt several roles in order to maintain the level of service and output expected by the Home.

Whilst at Adel Beck, Megan has utilised her system development skills set to create, maintain and implement several records management systems. Megan is currently part of a team that are implementing a new records management system not only at Adel Beck but in all of Leeds City Councils Residential Children's Homes.

Although it isn't Megan's area of expertise, she is often the go to person for IT related queries. An increasingly important area that Megan supports is recruitment, which is a very challenging task, completing recruitment and DBS checks for all new starters at Adel Beck.

Whilst at school Megan swam and competed for Yorkshire, training twice daily. Personally, It's been a busy few years for Megan, buying a new home for her and her young son, which she is currently fully renovating. In her spare time Megan is a qualified dog body language expert, volunteering at YGSD Training (Yorkshire German Shepherd Dog Training).

When asked about summarising her day-to-day role, Megan said, .....

.....“**It's probably easier to tell you what admin don't do within a Secure Childrens Home and that is – we don't directly look after the young people.....**



## Bite-Sized Bits!

- SAN continue to work collaboratively with the YCS in contributing to the development of their new National Strategy. We hope that the strategy is not limited to modifying previous strategies but that the YCS and stakeholders, including SAN , use the raft of national and international, knowledge and research to develop a restorative, solution focused and child centred approach to working with young people within custody.  
**Don't think outside the box...Imagine there is NO box!**
- There continues to be delays in the publication of the findings of the DfE funded **TOM Project (Target Operating Model)**. Whist this is frustrating, it is important that time is given to allow the findings and recommendations to be fully researched and practical in order to aid the development of a robust implementation strategy.
- SAN are developing an annual awards event. Any ideas on award categories would be welcomed and sent to the SAN email address below.



Following the success of the first SAN Games event in 2023, we are pleased to confirm this years SAN Games will take place in late June 2024.

There will be a wide range of events for children and staff to take part in, from running to basketball to a classic egg and spoon race! Lead organisers at each home will soon be communicating with colleagues to pass on confirm further details and how to get involved!

## Contact us at SAN

For more information about the purpose, function and services available within Secure Children's Homes please contact us via:

Website: [www.securechildrenshomes.org.uk](http://www.securechildrenshomes.org.uk)

Email: [SAN@securechildrenshomes.org.uk](mailto:SAN@securechildrenshomes.org.uk)

*We are always interested in new articles or features to include in our newsletter. This could be about an activity, event or policy or anything that you feel may be of interest to those working within the SAN group. Please send articles or ideas for articles to*

*[SAN@securechildrenshomes.org.uk](mailto:SAN@securechildrenshomes.org.uk)*