

## Celebrating Success and Achievement

SAN are excited to announce the inaugural Special, Annual Nominations & Awards Event for colleagues working within Secure Children's Homes.

The SAN Awards are a perfect way to recognise the exceptional commitment, skill and ability of the SCH workforce. This includes colleagues working in all disciplines, from Care, Education, Health and Casework and Interventions through to Facilities and Support Services (admin, finance, maintenance, catering, domestic etc).

These awards are also a great opportunity to show how we value and appreciate staff at all levels and in all disciplines for the work that they perform on a daily basis within very challenging situations and conditions. This is something that homes have been working hard towards over the years and was again highlighted as a key area of focus by the 31Ten TOM (Target Operating Model) Project.

There are five award categories, which are: Best New Starter, Inspiring Leader, Team of the Year, Best Practice Innovation of the Year and Outstanding Recognition. Each home will put forward their winner in each category before a special panel convenes to decide overall national winners. These will be announced and awarded during the SAN Winter Conference in November.

Good luck to everyone and a collective thanks from SAN for all of your hard work and commitment!

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# Garden Project Blooms

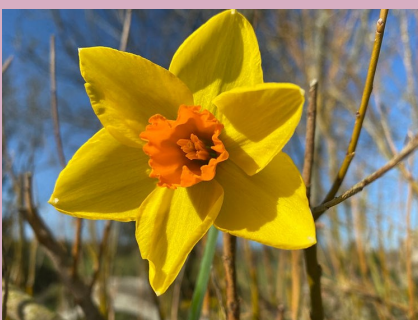
**Atkinson Secure Children's Home** recognises that the young people who reside in their care have highly complex issues, and that this requires a multidisciplinary approach to interventions.

The concept of Regulating Gardens has been developed by Eadaoin Bhreathnach, Clinical Director of Sensory Attachment Intervention (SAI). SAI recognises the need to target the areas of the brain that are the source of the dysfunction. The first requirement is to establish regulation of arousal states. It focuses on facilitating modulation of the body senses through the just right combination of up regulating and down regulating experiences. This in turn enables higher level sensory, emotional, and cognitive functioning. The young person is then in a state of readiness to engage in intervention.



The garden space has the potential to enable this by providing unique opportunities for regulation before, during and after interventions. It should enhance the effectiveness of intervention by enabling the young person to achieve greater regulation of arousal states. We are incredibly excited to be nearing the beginning of the garden being built at **Atkinson**.

The aim is to provide regulating outdoor spaces for the young people, recognising the powerful impact that this can have on regulation. When an individual is either hyper-aroused or hypo-aroused they cannot participate in everyday activities, including feeling safe with others, and engaging in therapeutic work in meaningful ways.



Guided therapeutic use of the spaces should enable the young person to 'stay' with and explore difficult issues, and process them without becoming overwhelmed.

# New Ideas for Staff Wellbeing

As part of improving **Barton Moss'** staff wellbeing offer, they partnered with Transcend; a local community business that offers holistic wellbeing sessions such as sound baths, yoga, Pilates, tai chi etc. These sessions were provided for free to the staff team, following their monthly development days; with an option to attend future sessions. Every staff member had the opportunity to attend voluntarily, with most accepting the offer.

There was mostly excellent feedback from this initiative, with some staff attending several sessions. Examples of feedback on this innovative and popular new idea for promoting staff wellbeing are below:

*"I was quite nervous about attending this session but got a really good feel about the place as soon as I arrived."*

*"A chair had been provided for me due to not being able to easily get up or down from the floor. However, when we arrived, the sound cradles were available for us. With some help, I was able to get into this very comfortably which was brilliant. The session was amazing – I have not experienced that level of relaxation for a long time."*

*The cradles felt like I was floating, and it gave me some respite from the various aches and pains that I am struggling with currently."*

*I was that relaxed, I think I had a little snooze! The staff at Transcend were brilliant, they were so lovely and reassuring. The actual session with the smells and the music was just brilliant. The room was cool, but it was so comfortable with the snuggle blanket provided."*



*"I was a little apprehensive about using the cradles for the first time but was so comfy & relaxing and so easy to get in/out of."*

*"A relaxing calming treat! What a luxury!"*

*"I never get time to do anything for myself and I absolutely loved being able to relax and think of nothing! I really enjoyed the whole sensory experience & will definitely be going back!"*

# Careers at Clare Lodge

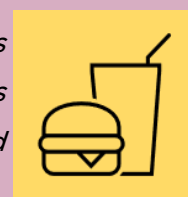
*“At Clare Lodge, we believe that a key function of education is to support students through the process of deciding upon the direction they take after leaving school.*

*“Our new curriculum allows all pupils to undertake the transition from learners to workers and to develop a deeper understanding of themselves and their abilities. We have introduced several BTEC’s in subjects such as Business, Digital Media, Hair and Beauty, Health and Social care, Hospitality and Tourism, Sport and Art and design to help this transition process.*



*“We provide impartial guidance and advice on further education, training, or employment across KS3 and KS4 involving many outside agencies such as employers and education providers such as Ideas4Careers. They provide half termly clinics where careers are explored further with our students on a 1:1 basis.*

*“We are currently working closely with McDonalds who provide some of our students with work experience opportunities. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to experience work life and the demands of a job. They often come back shattered but have an insightful opening into the world of work.*



*“We are working closely with The Careers and Enterprise Company, to ensure that our Careers Programme provides a quality service to the students. In September we are hosting a meeting with local businesses to gain their support for our careers programme. This will extend the programme into providing a careers fair/careers carousel at Clare Lodge. Here students will be able to meet the businesses at Clare Lodge and will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding their roles and responsibilities within their corporations.*

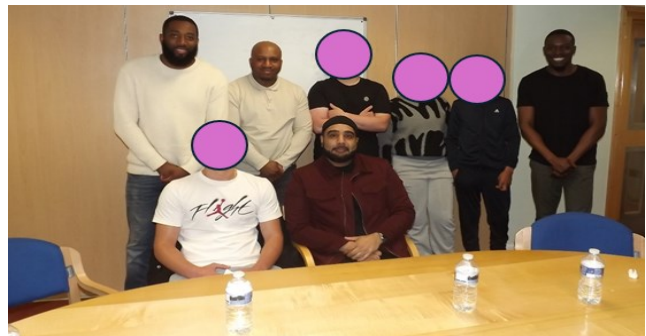
*“We are currently working towards gaining the nationally recognised Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance. If anyone would like to get advice on Careers, please contact me. I am more than happy to support in any way I can.”*

**Rita Malton – Lead Careers Person, Clare Lodge**

# Lived Experience Workshop at Lincolnshire

Children at **Lincolnshire Secure Unit** were lucky to have Ozzy, a lived experience speaker from the YCS join us with his team, Tristan, Zak and Ren. Research suggests that elevating the voices of people with lived experience has numerous benefits, sharing lived experiences is one of the best ways to promote empowerment and combat stigma surrounding the justice system and previous offences. The support these professionals offer is a knowledge of how to take a bad situation and look for the 'Blue skies', to find a passion that motivates a person to build their skills, develop their self knowledge, confidence and communication, create goals in a positive headspace and navigate life in the justice system to reach their goals.

The team were trauma informed in their practice, ensuring to check the ages, triggers and neurodiverse needs of the children which shone through in their practice. It was inspirational to listen to the speakers share their journeys with the children who listened carefully, absorbing the drive that they have grown within them, which was positively influencing our children to build their confidence so they too can become powerful leaders.



The speakers told our children to take back the loyalty they have given to others and be loyal to themselves, reminding them that placing trust in the wrong people can lead to being taken advantage of, encouraging them to find their boundaries with others, develop an understanding of their own triggers and work on building healthier habits and routines. Ozzy told the children, “***You are not marked for life, you are in a cocoon faze of life, develop your passion***”. Zak continued by using the hungry caterpillar as an example, explaining, “***you are the hungry caterpillars, this unit is your cocoon, utilise your time to eat knowledge and gain skills, taking every opportunity offered to you while you are here so when you leave you can become a beautiful butterfly, the best version of yourself***”.

The staff at **Lincolnshire Secure Unit** appreciate the lived experience team’s professionalism and dedication to using their journeys and their voice to positively influence children to believe in themselves and make better choices.



## 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 Andrea Marshall from **Marydale Lodge SCH**, an Outstanding home in St Helens.



Andrea is the Registered Manager of **Marydale Lodge**, Andrea started working in **Marydale** as a Secure Care Worker in January 2017 and has progressed to Senior, Deputy Manager and now Registered Manager.

Andrea’s role involves oversight of the service and the implementation of systems and processes that are effective, ensuring everyone has time to think and be creative. What Andrea enjoys most about her role is seeing the progress children make and seeing members of staff progress in their roles. Andrea is very proud that all members of the management team at **Marydale** started working as a Secure Care Worker.



Prior to working in **Marydale**, Andrea worked as an Administration Assistant as she dropped out of college early. Andrea started to volunteer at a local Youth Club in Wigan to give her experience working with children outside of her normal working hours.

Working in **Marydale** has given Andrea to opportunity to gain her Level 3 in working with Children in residential settings and her Level 5 in leadership & Management.

Outside of work, Andrea has a pet Bengal cat, however this lives with her mum and is a sore subject. The cat has no name, due to Andrea disliking the name she was given, so is often referred to as “pet” or “poppet”.

Andrea is a football fan and supports Liverpool Football Club. She loves listening to music and her favourite artist is Bruce Springsteen. She also enjoys reading, visiting other countries and socialising.



# 10X More Fun at Vinney Green

The Young Enterprise 10X Challenge is a business competition for young people aged 11-19, where they are challenged to turn £10 into as much profit as possible within a set time period, typically four weeks. Participants form teams, develop creative business ideas, and implement them, learning valuable skills in entrepreneurship, marketing, and financial management. The challenge emphasizes innovation, teamwork, and real-world experience, helping young people develop a business mindset.

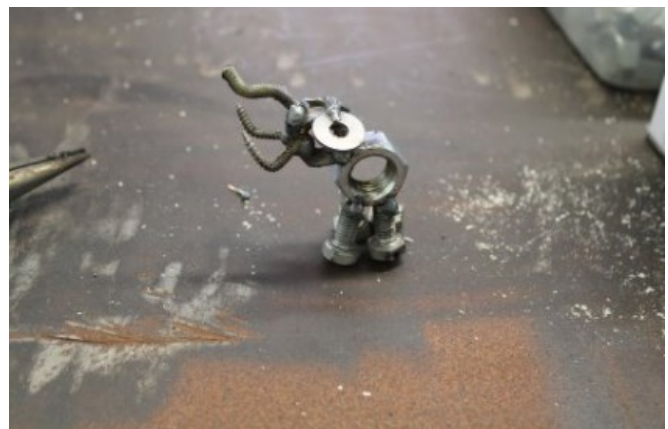
At **Vinney Green** young people were set the following challenges:

- Meeting an entrepreneur from 'Street to Boardroom'
- Inventing a business name and logo
- Choosing a charity to support
- Market research
- Deciding on a product to make
- Designing and developing a prototype
- Mass producing the product
- Sticking to budget



Developing and delivering a sells pitch

Vinney celebrated their young people by providing awards for leadership, creativity, teamwork, best product, best sales pitch, best value for money and best customer focus. The most successful team, Nuts and Bolts (please see their nuts & bolts elephant below!) raised £225 for Children in Need with over £450 raised for charities in total.



# SAN Leadership & Development Event

The 2024 SAN Leadership and Development Event will be held in Birmingham, this September. This year's event will see us reach the milestone of over 100 all-time attendees!

The aims of the event are to build confidence, competency and resilience within our existing workforce, increase retention, reduce/remove the financial burden on recruiting from outside of the SCH sector, to develop succession planning particularly for senior leadership roles and to demonstrate a comprehensive, meaningful commitment to the SCH workforce by investing in their development.



The positive impact of the event is clear. 95.5% of attendees are still in employment within an SCH, a huge retention rate. Of those, almost a third (29% - 21 candidates ) have since been promoted to middle/senior level, demonstrating the effectiveness of this event in developing colleagues.

## Contact Us

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)