

## SAN Games 2025

This summer saw the second annual SAN Games - a national event where homes celebrate the Olympic themes of excellence, respect and friendship through a series of fun activities. These ranged from track and field events through to keepie uppies and everything in-between!

Whilst winning wasn't the main objective, there was great pride from each home in wanting to do the best they could. The categories (and winners) are:

### Total Medals Won (Male Young People)

*1st: Vinney Green, 2nd: Clayfields, 3rd: Barton Moss*

### Total Medals Won (Female Young People)

*1st: Aycliffe, 2nd: Lansdowne, 3rd: Hillside*

### Total Medals Won (Staff)

*1st: Adel Beck, 2nd: Vinney Green, 3rd: Hillside*

### Total Medals Won (Overall)

*1st: Adel Beck, 2nd: Vinney Green, 3rd: Hillside*

### Total Medals Won (Weighted for SCH size)

*1st: Lansdowne, 2nd: Hillside, 3rd: Vinney Green*

Overall, an amazing experience for those participating and lots of positive memories made that children and staff will cherish.

We hope that the SAN Games can be a springboard for similar national or regional events. If you have any ideas, please pass these on via the email address to the right.

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# The Perfect Time To Celebrate!



Swanwick Lodge is saying goodbye to some of the children soon, so it was the perfect time for the Swanwick Oscars to take place.

With our very own red carpet and glitzy stage, all teams came together to celebrate not only the achievements of the young people, but the staff too. The star-studded event took place in July with a two-course buffet following the awards. There were awards for staff such as, 'Best Toast Maker' and 'Most Pick-Me'! The children received awards for being the 'Most Considerate', 'Most Charming' and 'Most Protective'.

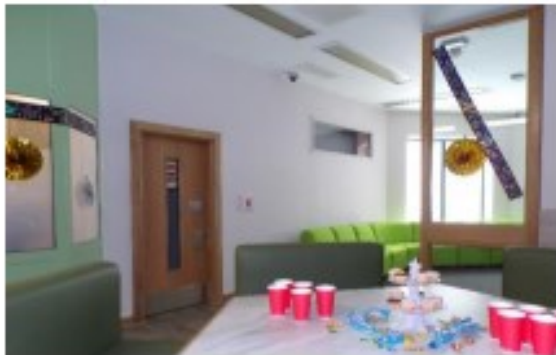
All winners received embossed certificates, a sweet treat and life-long respect from colleagues and children! Finally, the a-la-carte menu consisted of a variety of meats, sandwiches and pastries with a huge selection of fruits and cakes for dessert. A sensational event enjoyed by all!



## Out With The Old...



## AND IN WITH THE NEW!



Clayfields House are thrilled to announce that our new Sherwood Unit opened for residency earlier this year! After over a year of renovations, the new unit is shiny and new. The young people were extremely excited; they were up and ready early in the morning for their move, which they completed in just over an hour. This is a great accomplishment and a fitting tribute to all the colleagues involved in making it happen. More great news from Clayfields House on the next page...

# Clayfields: The Art of Success



Over the course of the academic year, students at Clayfields have been invested in their GCSE Art exams with Rebbeca (Art teacher). The exhibitions have been nothing short of fantastic with a collection of amazing interpretations and genres on display. This is another example of wanting the best for the young people in their care, and an understanding of what progress looks like within the Education department for the young people to achieve their full potential. This hasn't been easy with a variety of obstacles presenting themselves that have hindered their aspirational team towards "Outstanding".

This vast improvement within the department has been achieved under the guidance of Evette (Headteacher) who has been the most supportive leader and inspires not just in the Education Department but across the whole centre.

She is always present which makes such a difference because nothing is as inspiring as having a leader who visibly gets 'stuck in' with everyone. She strives to ensure that the staff reach outstanding standards whilst also being part of the team instead of just somebody heading it. She keeps standards high whilst keeping a personal touch which makes everyone want to come to work and do their best every day for the benefit of the young people's futures.

Our talented artists N, A, B and former resident L presented their fantastic artwork in preparation for the Art moderator's visit last month. Their work looked amazing on the display boards and staff were invited to come and view the art projects.



# ISAN *Shorts*

*An update on the smaller (but just as important) news stories across the Network!*

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On Friday 4th July, members of the SAN Case Management and Interventions Group came together for their second in-person meeting, hosted at Barton Moss Secure Care Centre in Manchester. The day brought together representatives from Secure Children's Homes across the country, fostering collaboration and shared learning in a supportive setting.

The agenda was varied, with insightful presentations focused on Children's Rights, experiences with parole processes within SCHs, and an open dialogue around the challenges and examples of good practice across our homes. These sessions provided valuable reflections and sparked meaningful discussion on improving outcomes for the young people in our care.



One of the highlights of the day was a lively team-building exercise which uncovered the competitive members of our group!!!

Gratitude is extended to all those who participated and contributed to such a productive and inspiring day. Events like these reaffirm the power of connection, shared experience, and collective growth in shaping the future of our homes.

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A Clearcare Working Group has been formed, as a sub-group of the SAN Support Services Sub-Group. With eight SCHs either using or planning to use Clearcare this is seen as an invaluable way to pool learning, identify best practice and look to make the most of this common resource.

Clearcare is an online care management and information sharing system that has won many plaudits for its straightforward visuals and powerful reporting features.

It is rare for one system or provider to be used so prominently between SCHs so this is a real opportunity for joint development.

If you have feedback for the Working Group from your use of Clearcare or would like to know more, please contact us using the SAN email address on the front and back pages of this newsletter.

# Kyloe's Summer Fair

On Wednesday 16th July 2025, Kyloe House hosted their annual summer fair. This is an opportunity for the staff team to pull together and create different stalls/activities to engage the young people. The summer fair is one of several initiatives aimed at supporting and engaging the young people to enjoy themselves.

Children enjoyed seeing the staff teams put together different stalls such as:

- Dress Up Photo Booth
- Balloon Pop
- Feely Boxes
- The Stalls
- Tombola
- Guess Who
- Prize Jenga
- Penalty Shoot Out
- Rowing Machine Competition



As a staff team they thrived & worked to their best ability to engage and plan activities to support the young people around the home. As a team they were very proactive in setting up new groups based on the young people's interests.

Julie, Homes Manager said, "It was wonderful to see so many children and adults taking part in the activities, enjoying the performances, and sharing in the fun celebrations."



# Putting In The Miles At Vinney

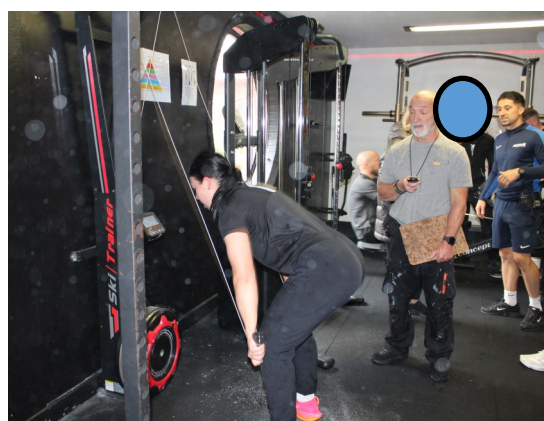
Staff and young people have run and cycled their socks off with two huge, successful events over the summer!

In July, over half of the young people in the home went the distance, running either 5k or 10k with the support of dozens of staff (many of whom also ran). A number of the young people had practiced beforehand but some had never run such a distance before. The run was in aid of charity and raised over £600 in sponsorship, a remarkable feat by remarkable people.

Channelling the feel-good factor of this event, a second endurance event was held in early August with a 12 hour spin bike challenge where between staff and young people, an incredible 980km were cycled on two spin bikes. Participants enjoyed a running video of the Tour De France to spur them on, with pizzas provided for strategic refuelling!

Both events were real delights to be present at. Young people were really engaged and enjoyed facing the challenges as well as the high level of support provided by their peers and by staff. A huge thanks went to Sammy and Ebonie, who led both events with passion and commitment.

Alongside this, Vinney Green has had great success with Hyrox events and have plans for Colour Run and Tough Mudder days in the near future!



# Staff Profile

Each edition of “The SANctuary” will focus on an incredible colleague who works within a secure children's home. In this edition, we find out more about Laura, who works at Swanwick Lodge as a Support Worker and was selected to be part of the New Starters panel at the SAN Conference in May.



*“I’ve been working at Swanwick Lodge since February 2024. When I started, I had no real experience working in this kind of setting or with children, so I was naturally apprehensive about how I’d find the role. However, I was pleasantly surprised by how family-orientated and warm the home felt from the very beginning. I could immediately see the genuine relationships between staff and children.*

*“I did worry about how I would fit in and whether I’d be able to build a rapport with the children myself. However, by simply being authentic and myself, I found that I was able to build strong relationships with the children quite quickly. This helped me feel more settled and truly part of the home.*

*“I soon realized that although staff follow a set of rules and guidelines, each of us brings our own individual style to the role and develops unique relationships with the children we support. In May, I took part in the new starters panel at the annual SAN conference. Although I was initially nervous, it turned out to be a valuable experience. Alongside four other new starters, we shared our perspectives on the recruitment process and how our expectations compared to the reality of working in a secure children's home. While our experiences varied, importantly we all expressed a shared passion and commitment towards our roles.*

*“I felt truly honoured to represent my home at the conference and really enjoyed meeting staff from the other homes. It was inspiring to see the passion and dedication across the organisation. We all do an amazing job, and I’m proud to be part of such a supportive and committed team. I genuinely hope to spend many more years working at Swanwick Lodge!”*



# SAN Leadership & Development Event

The 2025 SAN Leadership and Development Event is being held in Birmingham in September 2025. The event continues to go from strength to strength and is now in its fourth year. Over one hundred SCH colleagues have attended the event over the last three years! We continue to see really high levels of engagement and willingness to learn and develop, which can only be a good thing for the homes that SAN represent.

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.

Here's hoping for a great event in September which can help develop the 'leaders of tomorrow'!



## 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)