

SAN Awards — Celebrating Our Special Workforce

Just before Christmas, SAN announced the winners of the inaugural SAN Awards event for colleagues working within Secure Children's Homes.

Hundreds of nominations were made across the SCH estate, with dozens of individuals and teams nominated for one of the five award categories. An independent panel of judges scrutinised each of the applications made before deciding on the following winners:

Best New Starter – Verity (LANSDOWNE)

Team of the Year – Sara, Lucy, Hannah & Sinnia (Casework & Interventions) (LINCOLNSHIRE)

Inspiring Leader – Nabila (ADEL BECK)

Best Innovation – Debbie (ADEL BECK)

Outstanding Contribution – Neil (AYCLIFFE)

The online awards ceremony was well-attended and praise lavished upon the worthy winners above.

The awards will run again in 2025 and are 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.

If you have other ideas for how to recognise and reward the super-stars working alongside us then please contact SAN via the email address to the right of this article.

Here's to another year of praise, progress and outstanding practice!

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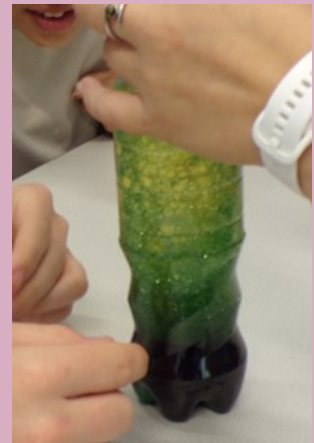
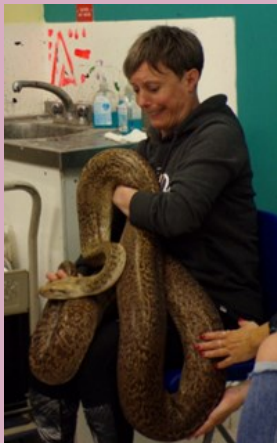
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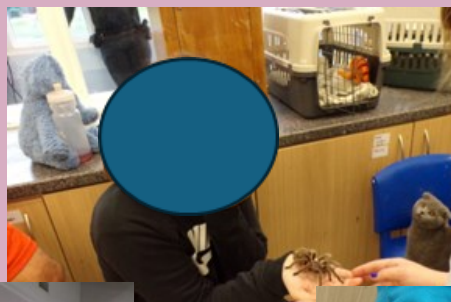
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School is Cool at Swanwick!

Since the start of this academic year, **Swanwick Lodge** has seen their children beginning to engage with a more practical/vocational offer. The children have been looking at trying their hand with mechanics, woodwork and leatherwork. In addition to this, the children have been working hard academically with nearly all the children completing Entry Level and Functional Skills assessments in Maths and English. Swanwick have also had a new Science Tutor start with them in September who has been opening the opportunities to complete practical such as: moly mods - for building atomic structures, models of plants and animal cells, chromatography, microscopy, diffusion and osmosis.



Over the October half term, the children have had a visit from the animals and enjoyed having their nails done by a professional technician. The children also participated in a pumpkin carving activity which was paired beautifully with the costume party!



Christmas Throughout SAN

Last Christmas season, BTEC students at **Clare Lodge** demonstrated their culinary skills and community spirit by preparing a delicious Christmas lunch for the residents of Glington. The event was a heartwarming opportunity for the students to showcase their hard work and give back to the local community.

The menu featured a traditional festive meal with all the necessary trimmings and extras, carefully prepared and beautifully presented by the students under the guidance of their Food Technology teacher. The residents were full of praise for the meal and shared how much they appreciated the effort and care that went into making the day special.



Beyond the food, this event was a chance for the students to build confidence, practice teamwork, and engage with the community in a meaningful way. Seeing the smiles on the residents' faces was truly rewarding for everyone involved.

Clare Lodge are incredibly proud of their students for their dedication and professionalism. This initiative is just one of the many ways they aim to develop the learners' skills and foster strong connections within the community.



Christmas Throughout SAN (cont.d)

Barton Moss held their second Christmas Fayre, an opportunity for staff and professionals to peruse and buy a wide array of gifts made by their talented young people. It was a roaring success with each unit creating amazing products and food. The total is currently around a fantastic £1,800!

This money will be donated to the Rob Burrow's MND charity. The charity was chosen by the young people because they are reading Rob Burrow's autobiography every Tuesday & Thursday morning.

Big thanks to the Education staff for their hard work and dedication supporting the YP to plan, make everything, leading up to and on the day of the fayre and all staff who spent their well earned money buying Christmas gifts and food.



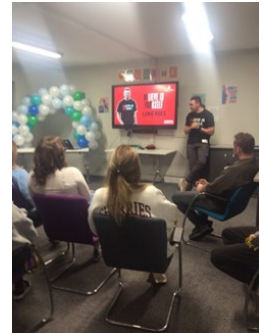
At **Kyloe House**, Christmas celebrations start with a huge house Christmas dinner! All of the staff (all teams) are invited to kick off the festivities and make it a Christmas to remember for the young people. The young people then attend a special performance put on by staff, beginning with a visit from Santa who dishes out a gift for everyone! This year's theme was "Kyloe's Got Talent" where staff (and even some young people) competed to win the golden buzzer. "Christmas Review Day" holds a special place in Kyloe's hearts, giving the young people an opportunity to experience fun, warmth, laughter and true Christmas spirit...and of course seeing the staff make fools of themselves!



ISAN *Shorts*

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

Hillside celebrated Universal Children's Day by inviting a multi-award winning motivational speaker, Luke Rees, to talk to the children about his story. Luke strives to 'inspire a generation of people to believe in themselves to unlock their own potential'. The day promoted and celebrated children's rights with a range of activities and workshops and was enjoyed by the children and staff.



At **Vinney Green**, a highlight has been the progress of one of their young people who arrived midway through Year 9, during the pandemic. He was below age-related expectations in Eng and Maths but engaged well in education, undertook access arrangements assessments and by the end of Year 11, passed 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or higher, inc Eng and Maths. He then wanted to do A-Levels in Law and Psychology, which was beyond in-house expertise and so extra online tutors were sourced for him and he is predicted to get two 'C' grades in the summer of 2025.

Furthermore, Vinney have linked with an external organisation called DWRM (Doing What Really Matters) who help incarcerated people access further/higher education. Through links with them, the young person applied for and was accepted to undertake Foundation Degree Modules with the University of Westminster in preparation for him hopefully starting a Degree in Criminology when he is in the adult estate.



Verity is the Animal Care and Science teacher at **Lansdowne** and has set about establishing an on-site animal care curriculum linked with employability and vocational qualifications. Setting up the animal care curriculum required extensive research into safety features over and above industry standard, training staff and sourcing a wide range of mammals, reptiles and invertebrates who now live on-site. Her commitment and dedication to her subject has been abundantly clear throughout and the impact for the young people has been astonishing, reflected in Verity winning Best New Starter in the SAN Awards 2024!

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 bend the rules and speak to an incredible team! The Interventions Team at **Lincolnshire** (Sinnia Lucy, Sarah and Hannah) won the Team of the Year Award in the SAN Awards 2024. We caught up with Sinnia and Lucy to find out more about their success...



How did you feel when you found out you had won the award?

Sinnia: We didn't even know we were nominated, so when we saw our names we weren't really scared as we didn't think you would win. It is lovely to be nominated and recognised for our work. We feel valued by the people in the home who nominated us and that our hard work is recognised by a larger group. We hold SAN in high regard so this is a huge achievement.

Lucy: It's been a tough year as a team with difficult cases and lots going on. To finish the year with this level of recognition nationally and from our own leadership team was amazing and so lovely to win.

What part of your work are you most proudest of, from the last twelve months?

Sinnia: There are several projects, some of which involved liaising with Lived Experience leads. We try to be inspirational for the young people, even supporting our young people to help deliver interventions to school children as well as children in open community homes (as part of a ROTL scheme).

Lucy: We had our first parole case which was a steep learning curve but we got through it together, with a common aim to help the young person. You have to cling onto the success stories!

What's next for your team?

Sinnia: Developing pathways for intervention and understanding the nuances of welfare and justice-based interventions. Also working towards the new build to ensure that in our wonderful new home all young people have access to outstanding provisions. We're ready for the challenge!

SAN Leadership & Development Event

The 2024 SAN Leadership and Development Event was held in Birmingham, in September 2024. The event was considered a great success, with over one hundred SCH colleagues now having attended the event over the last three years! The consensus of the SAN Core Group who led the event was that the 2024 cohort were the most engaged they have had the pleasure of working with.

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 next event is set for September 2025, again in Birmingham. The hope is for an even bigger and better experience that can continue to create and cultivate 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

Email: 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