

SAN Winter Conference

The SAN Winter Conference took place in sunny Newcastle on 13th November 2025. It was a very well attended event which incorporated interesting and engaging presentations and sessions around new technology (delivered by ARM Ltd) and corruption (delivered by YCS).

The highlight of the day was the SAN Awards ceremony, where winners were confirmed in a range of categories which celebrated outstanding practice and commitment within SCHS. Those winners were:

Best New Starter

Jack F (Residential Practitioner, Adel Beck)

Best Practice Innovation of the Year

Simon C, Rachel A & Christopher R (Aycliffe)

Outstanding Recognition

Salman A B (Catering Manager, Clayfields)

Inspiring Leader

Cherelle R (Team Leader, Adel Beck)

Team of the Year

Rachel B, Tasha W Alisha R, Chloe O, Joe W, John H & Tasha W
(Casework, Interventions & Resettlement Team, Adel Beck)

We thank everyone who participated in the awards process, from those nominating to the judges. We hope to continue to recognise the amazing work completed across Secure Children's Homes and look forward to an even tighter contest next year!

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SAN 2026: Direction, Development & Collective Responsibility

Colleagues,

2026 is shaping up to be an important and energising year for secure accommodation.

The TOM Project will continue to bring change across commissioning, capacity, service improvements and workforce planning. Reform must remain grounded in the realities of secure children's homes, and SAN will continue to advocate for safeguarding, regulatory integrity and operational clarity at national level.

The current ongoing YCS Safeguarding Review, recognises the strength of trauma-informed, multi-disciplinary practice across our homes, while reinforcing the importance of consistency and defensible decision-making. This is an opportunity for us to keep strengthening practice together.

We have much to look forward to: two national conferences with the next in Nottingham (May) and the 3rd SAN National Awards in November. The SAN Leadership & Management Event (Birmingham) will be led by colleagues from Kyo House, with Julie Tinkler leading the three-day programme. I will continue contributing to support leadership development and succession planning across the network.

We also look forward to another fantastic SAN National Games, organised by Bradley Henson of Vinney Green, a powerful reminder of what collaboration can achieve for young people.

Across the estate, we are seeing continued growth, including the nearing completion of Lincolnshire Secure Home, developments in the Pan London and the West Midlands SCH projects, progress at Swanwick Lodge, Vinney Green and Atkinson Secure Children's Home, and the reopening of Oasis Restore. We are also introducing new screening technology to support more child-friendly and less intrusive searching practices balancing safety with dignity.

As secure children's homes grow in national significance, our collective voice and collaboration matter more than ever. SAN succeeds when we contribute, share and lead together. Good luck to all in 2026.

Francis N'Jie

Chair

Secure Accommodation Network



X Conversations at Lincolnshire



The six-week X Conversations lived-experience programme at Lincolnshire provided an interactive, decision-based learning journey designed to help children explore risk, exploitation, emotional resilience and the impact of choices. Through a series of evolving character stories—including James, Reece, Tina and Tracey—participants were invited to make decisions at key moments, prompting reflection on peer pressure, grooming, criminal involvement, trauma, substance misuse and healthy coping strategies. Each session combined group discussion, diary reflection and individual 1-to-1 work, allowing children to consider how personal experiences and circumstances influence behaviour while reinforcing accountability and empathy.



Across the programme, themes of identity, consequence, and positive change were explored in a safe, structured environment. Children examined how small decisions can escalate into significant outcomes and learned to recognise manipulation, build emotional awareness and consider alternative pathways. Later sessions revisited earlier characters to demonstrate long-term consequences and the potential for growth, highlighting resilience and the possibility of different futures. The final session encouraged critical thinking by exploring alternative endings, reinforcing the “ripple effect” of choices on individuals and others.

Feedback indicated increased consequential thinking, improved confidence in decision-making and greater empathy towards others' experiences, demonstrating the programme's value in supporting reflection, behaviour change and personal development. Young people fed back, “It really helps me make better choices in my day to day” and “When it comes to getting out, I will do things differently, cos now I have seen what it is like when it goes wrong, I am looking forward to being with my family”

Lansdowne Jumping For Joy!

Young people at Lansdowne are offered trampolining as an option. They participate weekly for the entire term and we follow the British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards Levels 1 -10. Young people have the opportunity to practice on their own 1-1 with qualified staff and also work in small groups where they can Catch the Ball, Crack the Egg and be 'Kipped' very high amongst other things.

Currently one young person is working at Level 8 but is keen to 'try out' skills in the level above!!



Many of our young people want to do 'flips' (scary to watch initially!!) so we develop their techniques at a suitable pace in order for them to perform safely and accurately.

Our young people are spotted of course throughout sessions and become accustomed to being physically supported by the coach in order to gain confidence, develop techniques and ultimately perform the skills required well enough to pass the level award they are on.

Safety around and on the trampoline is high profile and reiterated throughout the sessions with all our young people adhering to the expectations and boundaries around the apparatus.



ISAN *Shorts*

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

In December, Vinney Green had the pleasure of welcoming back Bart Gee. This was Bart's third visit to the home and there is a good reason why we keep inviting him back.

Bart was born with a physical disability called Arthrogyrosis. Doctors said he would never walk, may never have the strength to be able to sit up and would have a bleak outlook to life - that being the limit!

Bart is a motivational speaker who talks about turning disability and adversity into possibility, and shows the children and staff, how he adapts and overcomes. His interactive sessions were again captivating and totally inspiring and beating one of our lads at pool left the young person gobsmacked! This same young person's EHCP states he needs a movement break every 10 minutes, yet he stayed in the session the entire time, engaged and behaving impeccably.



If you have any articles you wish to submit for inclusion in Sanctuary—whether it is a short paragraph or a whole article—please send these in. It is great to celebrate the amazing practice that takes place across the network.

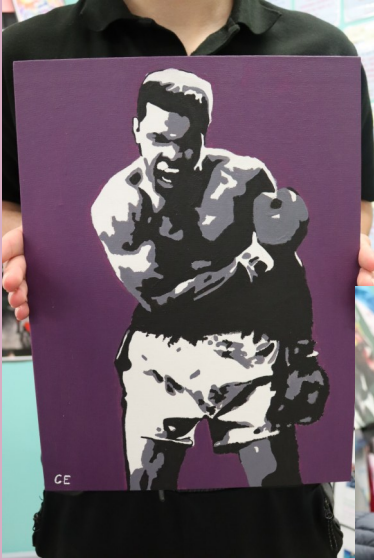
In particular, we are keen to include more content around:

- staff profiles
- successful intervention work
- achievements of children
- inspiring leadership

Don't be shy, let's celebrate our greatness!

Adel Beck: Picture Perfect

A small selection of some of the amazing artwork being produced at Adel Beck!



All About Me



At Kylee House an All About Me religion and culture day was held, via the Black Charter Group. This was used to enhance young people's knowledge around different cultures and faiths for themselves to explore and to understand about other people's choices and religions.

Staff had leads from four different religions and cultures: Humanist, Bengali Hindu Puja, Islam and Sikh. All young people came down and got involved in the day's events. Listening to the different leads and learning about the different cultures, religions and faiths.

Drop-in session with Kate from Northeast Humanists	North East Humanists	YouTube Video Tour of Jewish Synagogue & ZOOM Call with Deanne	NEWCASTLE REFORM SYNAGOGUE
Sikh visit from NCC staff member Su Kaur	NEEBPA	NEEBPA Visit from Hindu Temple, Newcastle	
Relaxation with Debbie S		Visit from Pat-Christianity	
Steel Drum Band are coming into the home		Hair Braiding with Laura B	
Cultural Food Provided by Kylee House Kitchen Staff		Education Sessions Cooking with Sara, Cooking	
QUIZ TIME	Cultural Quiz Ft Staff Dress Up		All Staff & Young People Badminton Competition



Youth Inspectors Take the Lead at Barton Moss!

In December 2025, Barton Moss Secure Care Centre launched an exciting new initiative: The Youth Inspector Project putting young voices at the heart of quality improvement.

Two incredible young volunteers stepped up to inspect each of our homes and the education department. Armed with their own inspection checklist (inspired by Ofsted ratings: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, and Inadequate), they explored key areas they felt mattered most to children.

With confidence and maturity beyond their years, they carried out the inspections—honest, fair, and refreshingly insightful. No offices or bedrooms were included, but everything else was open for review. Their approach impressed everyone involved.

Why this matters: This project empowers children to shape the environments they live and learn in—because their voices matter most.



Feedback highlights from Leaders in different areas at Barton Moss included:

Willow: *Comprehensive, fair, & positive. Their ability to communicate with confidence was impressive.*

Beech: *Outstanding result! Their professionalism and feedback made me proud.*

Rowan: *They delivered even the difficult messages with confidence & solutions. Pleasure to meet them!*

Education: *Serious and professional attitude - feedback will help us make real changes*

Head of Centre: *The two Youth Inspectors lead the inspection with such professionalism. They're a credit to Barton Moss and will help to shape how we care for children now and into the future.*

The Youth Inspectors will return in three months to check progress on their recommendations, followed by a full inspection in June 2026. We can't wait to see the impact of their work!

Our Next SAN National Conference

The 2026 SAN National Conference in May will be held in Nottingham. This reflects our commitment to host events across England and Wales to maximise representation and accessibility.

The theme of the event will be “Models of Care”. If your home has a successful model that your team could present to colleagues (no more than one hour) please let SAN know as soon as possible, using the email address below.

The event is not just for managers and front line staff from all disciplines are welcome.



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

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