

### The View from Secure Care - May 2020

**The following update was shared in the May issue of the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice's e-bulletin.**

#### Secure care

The Heads of Scotland's five secure centres continue take part in a weekly call with Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate and Scotland Excel. In recent weeks all centres have reported staffing levels have improved as shielding staff return to work.

As Scotland moves through the recovery phases, each centre has been working on their own route map to ensure they are able to deliver the best service they can whilst safely returning to normal service. All of the secure centres have had recent transitions in and out of secure and are able to accept new referrals.

Whilst full school days have not been possible, education has continued throughout the COVID-19 crisis with centres being creative in delivering blended learning using IT and video links to deliver lessons. Centres are now working on plans for young people to return to education when it is safe for them and staff to do so.

Some centres have been able to safely organise and hold family visits using outdoor spaces and are working on risk assessments to restart mobility plans for young people. Young people are also encouraged and able to stay in touch with families using face time, zoom, phone and letters. As we move in to the next phase of Test and Protect this will be a challenge time for centres as staff are exposed to a higher risk of infection due to more contact with people in our daily lives. It is anticipated Test and Protect could be with us for up to two years if a vaccine is not found so it is vital we get this working well. Should a number of staff be required to isolate it could have a huge impact on the entire shift and young people in their house unit. Each service has or is carrying out their own risk assessment working with Health Protection Scotland and the Scottish Government to ensure they will be able to maintain a service

Centres are working on plans to allow professionals to safely visit centres and when risk assessments are complete and more information is available they will contact all the placing Local Authorities. In the meantime it would be helpful if enquiries to centres could be kept to a minimum to allow services to focus on the vital work of keep young people safe.

In other news, Rossie Young People's Trust have successfully applied to the Wellbeing Fund to develop their digital platforms, purchase equipment and enhance their IT capacities in response to COVID-19. This has been important in supporting and enriching the children and young people's learning experience and improving educational outcomes. The creation of further video-conferencing facilities has supported the ability for children and young people to maintain contact with their families, external supports and services, such as social work, and Rossie staff working at home. Moreover, such resources positively support the upholding of children's rights to participation, including in decision-making forums such as children's hearings and reviews with external stakeholders. These resources have also enabled the upgrading of IT equipment to enable these keyworkers who require to shield or work from home to continue their vital work with



children and young people. Young people and staff have also enjoyed creating this [video](#) of uplifting moments during the pandemic.

At the [Good Shepherd Centre](#) the young people have been undertaking a whole host of activities during COVID-19, some of which has been captured in a variety of news stories and videos.

If you would like any more information or to discuss secure care, please contact [deborah.nolan@strath.ac.uk](mailto:deborah.nolan@strath.ac.uk).