

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 30 JULY 2020

Attendees – Alison Gough (GSC), Sinclair Soutar (Kibble), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Peter McCloskey (ESS), Claire Lundy (St Marys), **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel) **[Redacted]** (Care Inspectorate), **[Redacted]** (Education Scotland), Liz Murdoch (Scottish Government), Tom McNamara (Scottish Government)

Apologies – David Cotterell (Scottish Government), **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel).

1. WELCOME AND MINUTE FROM LAST WEEK

Tom welcomed everyone to the call.

Liz confirmed that the note from last week had been amended to reflect the change suggested by Mary regarding the young person who had previously tested negative and their retesting if agreed by public health.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie – The young person who had tested negative for Covid is still in isolation as per the public health advice, however, Mary raised concerns around the mixed guidance relating to isolation. This was discussed later in the meeting.

Good Shepherd (GSC) – No change from last week. GSC are working with shielding staff towards their safe phased return to work from next week.

GSC are working closely with the Care Inspectorate following the tragic death of a young person, who had previously lived in the GSC. There are real concerns and worries around young people in Scotland, particularly in relation to drugs, which leads to heightened concerns and risks.

Kibble – No change from last week. Some movement is being carried out by young people, which can bring challenges. Kibble are also working with shielding staff to ensure their safe return to work.

St Mary's – No changes from last week. Shielding staff are also starting to return to work, which has been positively received by those returning. Like other providers they are working through the route-map and look forward to hearing the next statement from the First Minister.

Tom said that he took part in an introductory phone call on Monday with Kevin Miller, the new Director at St Mary's and Iona Colvin, Interim Director for Children and Families Directorate at the Scottish Government.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS) – No changes from last week, with no Covid related issues. ESS are in a different position than others with regards to staff returning to work who have been shielding, as they have to wait for the local authority to give the go ahead before people can return to work. It is hoped this will be agreed after the First Minister's statement.

Peter provided an offer of support to GSC around reflecting on tragic deaths, as Edinburgh experienced the death of a young person a few years ago and they have

insight in to the longer term impact this has on staff and young people. It was noted that further examination is needed around the transition from secure care in to the community. GSC will be carrying out some reflection work and so a discussion between Peter and Alison would be helpful.

Training around those transitioning out of intense support services is lacking and ESS have been in conversation earlier this week with the CSWO to consider future training options.

Tom explained that Ministers are extremely concerned around the deaths of young people in care and beyond care. Work is taking place with the Promise team and data analysts to look at this in detail. It was agreed it would be helpful for secure care to link in to discussions around this. This will be discussed at the meeting on 13 August with some initial scoping discussion on 6 August.

3. ACTION POINTS FROM 23 JULY MEETING

3.1 - AP1 To discuss the impact of a second wave and how to manage the risks at a future meeting.

It was agreed this would be discussed at the meeting on 20 August.

3.2 AP2 Update to the Residential and Childcare Guidance.

Liz explained that Rod Finan had confirmed that he hopes to have the guidance updated by next week but he is awaiting clarification from health on issues relating to testing. Rod is aware of the urgent need for the guidance to be updated.

Mary had raised concerns earlier in the week around the Care Inspectorate standard which states “children and YP who test positive (or are symptomatic) are isolated for 7 days”. **[Redacted]** had confirmed to Liz in an email on 29 July that this was taken from the current Residential guidance and had been checked with public health. However, this is contradictory to the advice which public health have given Rossie recently regarding the young person who tested negative and has been requested to isolate for 14 days. This could also be a concern for the Children’s Commissioner.

[Redacted] confirmed in an email to Liz that his understanding is still 7 days as per the current residential guidance but he will follow this up with Public Health Directorate to confirm. A response had not been received in time for the meeting.

Action point 1: Liz to provide confirmation of the isolation timescales once Rod has confirmed the position with public health colleagues.

3.3 AP3. Carried forward from a few weeks ago. **[Redacted]** had agreed to speak to local authorities to seek their views regarding on-going enquiries made to providers and to advise the group of next steps. **[Redacted]** had asked secure providers if they could send her examples of questions or spreadsheets which LA’s had asked providers to complete.

[Redacted] confirmed that **[Redacted]** had been in contact with the Social work service practice network to try and gather some information. They had received 3-4 responses so far.

Action point 2: **[Redacted]** to provide further update on this action at a future meeting.

Alison explained that she had recently discussed covid-19 additional costs with **[Redacted]** and that **[Redacted]** had agreed to progress discussions with Scottish Government and COSLA. **[Redacted]** said that she would speak to **[Redacted]** about this.

Action point 3: **[Redacted]** to speak to **[Redacted]** about the meeting with SG and COSLA to discuss additional costs from the covid pandemic and to provide an update at a future meeting.

Sinclair advised that some LA's have been in contact with Kibble to say that they will not be looking for further weekly updates as they are now treating the situation as business as usual.

4. AOB

[Redacted] provided an update that an email had been sent to secure care Education colleagues inviting them to a further Education workshop.

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 6 AUGUST 2020

Attendees on the call – Kenny Collins (Good Shepherd Centre), Sinclair Soutar (Kibble), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Peter McCloskey (ESS), Claire Lundy (St Marys), [Redacted] (Scotland Excel), [Redacted] (Scotland Excel), [Redacted] (Care Inspectorate), [Redacted] (Education Scotland), Liz Murdoch (SG)

Apologies – David Cotterell (SG), Tom McNamara (SG), Alison Gough (GSC)

1. WELCOME AND MINUTE FROM LAST WEEK

Liz welcomed everyone to the call. No amendments had been intimated for the note of 30 July.

[Redacted] enquired as to whether other modes of holding this meeting could be considered such as Google meet. It was agreed that the Scottish Government would look at alternative options to allow for video.

Action point 1: David to explore alternative virtual meeting options for next week's meeting and beyond.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie – The young person who had tested negative for Covid has now integrated back in to communal living. Visits continue to be held outdoors with some professional visits being held internally in dedicated spaces. The thermal camera is working well. The outbreak in Aberdeen has raised some concerns, in particular for those living in the Aberdeenshire area and travelling to Rossie for work.

Good Shepherd (GSC) – No change from last week. Continue to work with shielding staff returning to work. Also thinking about Education starting back up. Continue to run the summer school programme which is going well. The Education session facilitated by [Redacted] held earlier this week went well and highlighted good collaborative working.

Kibble– No change from last week. Kibble are tweaking their organisation resilience plans following the outbreak in Aberdeen and in particular for those who would be visiting from Aberdeen. The thermal imaging cameras have now been introduced and are working well. Shielding staff have returned to work.

St Mary's – This week has been settled. However one staff member has been tested for Covid and is awaiting results. St Mary's are also starting to plan for the potential impact on staff over the coming months should there be further outbreaks and increased illness due to the winter months. All shielding staff have returned to work, which has been positive and they are preparing for school starting back up.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS) – No changes from last week. Also preparing for school starting back up. Peter explained that they have been using the Government Covid age risk assessment tool. The Aberdeen outbreak reinforces concerns and so Edinburgh are revisiting their contingency plans.

3. ACTION POINTS FROM 30 JULY MEETING

3.1 – Deaths of young people

It was agreed at last week's meeting that a further discussion on untimely and tragic deaths of young people would take place at the meeting on 13 August but with some consideration on this at today's meeting.

Liz provided an update that the Scottish Government are considering some mapping around the deaths of young people in care and beyond care. This will be led by Looked after Children colleagues with external partners supporting this work.

Members were asked to consider the role of secure care in hearings and decisions being made about young people and what could be improved to make things better in the future.

Peter explained that Edinburgh have good input at hearings. It was agreed that secure heads having input into discussions is really important but this can sometimes be overlooked.

It was noted that the involvement of COSLA/LAs in discussions was important. On paper the plans can look good but the actual supports are not taken up or may not be available once the person is in the community. The policy view around secure being used as a last resort was highlighted as being at odds with the providers, which can cause tensions. A balanced approach is needed.

It was agreed that Liz would speak to David and Tom about the discussion for next week's meeting but members were to advise David of any questions or issues they wanted to scope out in advance of the meeting or if there is anything which would help prepare for the discussion.

Action point 2 – SG and members to consider the discussion on deaths of young people in advance of next week's meeting.

3.2 - Residential and Childcare Guidance and Isolation timescales

Liz explained that [Redacted] had hoped to update the guidance this week but he is still waiting on clarification from health on issues relating to testing. He expects this to be imminent.

Mary had raised concerns around the isolation timescales and contradictions between the Residential Guidance and timescales by the Care Inspectorate compared to Public Health. Liz confirmed that the advice is currently isolation of 14 days for those who are in contact with the person who is positive and 10 days for those who have had a positive test, however, there is still an emphasis on discussing local situations and solutions with local HPTs. This will be within the updated residential guidance.

3.3 Requests from LA's

[Redacted] had agreed to speak to local authorities to seek their views regarding on-going enquiries made to providers and had received some responses so far. Sinclair advised at last week's meeting that some LAs had been in touch to say that they would

not be requesting weekly updates from now on due to returning to business as usual. This decline in a request for information has been seen across all the secure centres.

Although things have tailed off for now requests are likely to increase again should the number of cases increase across Scotland. Providers are to let Scotland Excel know if there are any further requests for information and plans. In the meantime it was agreed that **[Redacted]** and **[Redacted]** would continue to gather information and consider providing this through the contract management in the future.

It had previously been agreed that **[Redacted]** would set up a meeting with Cosla and the Scottish Government to discuss additional covid-19 related costs. **[Redacted]** issued an email in advance of the meeting to explain that she had received confirmation that where a secure care provider wishes to apply for Supplier Relief, they should make an application to the Council within which they are registered. This was discussed and agreed at a recent meeting of Chief Finance Officers.

4. Education recovery plan and Education workshops

The Education recovery plan was discussed, Mary asked about the use of face masks if staff are unable to keep 2m apart, funding for additional support staff and whether gyms could be used. **[Redacted]** advised that she had responded to Mary directly prior to the meeting addressing all her concerns.

Secure providers are in a better position than most traditional educational settings due to the smaller numbers of young people in classes, however, the young people are not always compliant, which brings other risks. Risk assessments are required, in all settings where physical distancing may be difficult. Consultation with staff will be needed to investigate ways to mitigate risk, such as screens, changes to physical environment, or face masks. If risks cannot be mitigated then providers may have to amend learning plans or activities. The guidance from the Scottish Government should be balanced against the additional support needs of young people, particularly in the use of face masks.

[Redacted] confirmed that gym and sports hall spaces can be used as class rooms spaces if required. However, if using the gym as a gym then this would require strict cleaning measures.

[Redacted] provided an update on the Education workshop which took place on 4 August whereby discussion focused on the use of digital collaborative tools and how to access these safely. A collaborative working group will be set up by **[Redacted]** and the GLOW lead to consider this. A collaborative meeting will also be set up to consider ways of monitoring and tracking progress in order to raise attainment and achievement. It was noted that monitoring and tracking is more difficult in secure care settings but consideration will be given to co-creating a bespoke system for secure care. This could also be useful in residential school settings. The next main workshop will take place in October and then any future workshops will be organised directly by the five secure centres, with support from **[Redacted]** if required.

5. AOB

Visits – Prior to the meeting Mary had asked whether guidance would be developed on safe visits, similar to that for adult care homes. Liz confirmed that there are

paragraphs within the updated residential guidance regarding visits. This state's general principles around issues which may arise and emphasises the importance of innovative local solutions using distancing, hygiene measures, specific venues etc.

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 13 AUGUST 2020

On the call – Alison Gough (GSC), Sinclair Soutar (Kibble), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Peter McCloskey (ESS), Claire Lundy (St Marys), **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel), **[Redacted]** (Care Inspectorate), **[Redacted]** (Education Scotland), Tom McNamara (Scottish Government) David Cotterell (Scottish Government)

Apologies – Liz Murdoch (SG), **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel),

1. WELCOME AND MINUTE FROM LAST WEEK

Tom welcomed the group and they agreed the note of the 6 August 2020 call.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie – Mary said Rossie had a good week things are going well.

The YP who has been isolating following a negative test is now back in communal living. The outbreak in Aberdeen and the smaller number of cases in Montrose has caused Rossie and the staff some concern however it has as yet had no impact.

Good Shepherd (GSC)

Alison said things are good with little change from last week. Staff are reviewing child plans and continue to arrange safe family contact.

GSC have concerns around the decision making Children Hearings and the ongoing issues with IT connectivity. Tom said there is a rescue package in place to help resolve these issues it is hoped Hearing's will soon move to the more reliable MS team's platform.

GSC staff are gathering information on issues with Hearings and will pass their information on to SCRA and copy in Scottish Government.

The GSC summer programme has gone well.

Education staff have been working well on resilience plans and return to education. The amount of guidance is a challenge and can be pretty overwhelming

GSC continue to work with staff who are returning to work following shielding

Kibble

Not a lot of change from last week with everything mainly positive

Kibble's schools went back today in a phased return.

Thermal image cameras are now in place across the campus including secure care.

St Mary's

Claire agreed with GSC the school guidance is difficult to apply in secure care and St Mary's are adapting this to ensure they are following the best available guidance

St Mary's have a couple of staff quarantining following one returning from Spain and the other having been contacted by track and trace after visiting Aberdeen. Neither member of staff has had contact with other staff or young people.

Like Rossie St Mary's are concerned about recent outbreaks in their area but so far this has had no impact.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS)

No change from last week ESS has had one member of staff and one YP tested both tests returned negative.

ESS school has started with teachers returning to work, staff are wearing PPE however it is expected the need for using PPE will reduce as staff see the other safety measures in place and become more confident with the working environment.

A number of residential staff have now returned to work easing the longer term staffing issues.

3. ACTION POINTS FROM 6 AUGUST MEETING

Action point 1: David to explore alternative virtual meeting options for next week's meeting and beyond.

David advised the group it was not possible to use Skype for Business as not everyone had access. A couple of people have offered to issue invitations to enable the group to use Microsoft teams.

The group had a short discussion some felt video conference could be more complicated and tiring, they already take part in a number of different video calls and prefer this group's phone conference. Others in the group had no strong preference and it was decided to continue with current set up of tele conference calls. **Cleared**

Action point 2: SG and members to consider the discussion on deaths of young people in advance of next week's meeting. **Carried forward**

There was some confusion over whether this discussion was going to take place today or next week. Tom agreed it would be best to leave it to next week but wanted to have a conversation that would help scope out the discussion for next week.

Tom said this was a difficult and challenging topic to get right he asked if secure centres felt they were sufficiently supported or otherwise to make meaningful contributions to CHS that are taken fully in to account when decisions are made?

How can we reach out to CHS to recalibrate discussions and be better involved in decision making?

Alison said following recent tragic events we need to think very carefully how we take forward the before and after Secure Care Pathway and Standards and how we research and evaluate the impact of the standards.

The promise sponsor team have been asked to consider the number of young people in care who recently have tragically lost their life. Tom said he will link in with the Promise team before next week's meeting and thought there may be a role for the of Childhood bereavement co-ordinator with this work.

Tom agreed to speak to CHs to test how receptive they are to handling difference of opinions at the point of decision making.

[Redacted] pointed out the standards are written in the first person however that does not mean the YP is ready to leave secure care because they think they are there needs to be appropriate support in place and they need to be ready.

There needs to be respectful interrogation of YP's readiness to move on from secure care.

Alison said when a young person is referred to secure care legislation ensures the Head of Unit is fully involved in the appropriateness of the placement and has to apply due diligence. However when they are leaving secure care the Head of Unit does not have the same input or powers even when they feel they YP is not ready to move or the appropriate supports are not in place. LA's seldom have a 3 month plan in place when a YP transitions from secure care and this definitely adds to the risks.

Tom thanked everyone for their input and agreed this will be discussed further next week.

Action point: 1 Tom to discuss this with the Promise team and CH before next week. The group to consider how communications can be improved to produce the best decision making at CH.

4. AOB

Remand – Have units noticed an increase in the number of remanded YP? (David)

ESS thought the courts have tried to keep YP in the community trying several different bail options only remanding YP as a last resort. Some centres thought there has been an increase in the number of remanded YP and agreed to send the figures on to David.

Action point: 2 – Secure centres to pass the number of remanded YP to David

Flu Jab – Mary informed the group all secure staff are eligible for the jab and Rossie hope to have the vaccine delivered and stored on site for use in October. Other units said they also had plans in place for staff to receive the flu jab.

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 20 AUGUST 2020

On the call – Alison Gough (GSC), Sinclair Soutar (Kibble), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Peter McCloskey (ESS), Claire Lundy (St Marys), **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel), **[Redacted]** (CI), Tom McNamara (Scottish Government) David Cotterell (Scottish Government), **[Redacted]** (Education Scotland)

Apologies – Liz Murdoch (Scottish Government), **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel)

1. WELCOME AND MINUTE FROM LAST WEEK

Tom welcomed the group and agreed the note of the 13 August meeting with no amendments.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie – No change from last week - all going well at the moment. Mary asked if there could be a discussion on internal visits.

Action point: 1 Tom said he would source and circulate the SCRA guidance for holding Children's Hearings.

Good Shepherd (GSC) - This has been a good week - school returned today after an in service day yesterday.

GSC have been holding "Looking Ahead 2" all staff workshops across the centre reflecting on the last year and focused on mental health and wellbeing - leading in to the launch of the national secure care standards.

GSC have been able to hold a number of family visits in the centre which have gone well. GSC are considering a number of options to ensure they can continue with visits in the event of a second Covid wave including possible structural changes to enable safe visits. This will require resources though in terms of capital costs

Staff and YP are well no issues with testing.

Kibble

School returned last week - there have been no problems. Kibble have been able to safely host internal visits although virtual contact and outside visits remain the preferred options.

St Mary's

This has been a busy week, St Mary's have had a YP who recently moved to St Mary's tested. This following their mother reporting she had tested positive for Covid-19. The YP isolated and St Mary's contacted Public Health to arrange a test. As the YP had arrived from out-with Scotland and was not registered with a local GP this proved to be a difficult and challenging process. Claire felt the difficulties highlighted the inequalities for LAC. It took a lot of staff time to eventually arrange the test and took almost three days from first contact with PH to getting the test. Fortunately the test was negative.

Tom said there appears to be an issue if a YP does not arrive through 'normal' Scottish channels. This has been brought to the attention of seniors and will be raised with the Public Health Directorate. It is essential secure centres build strong / good relations with their local PH it may be helpful to talk through some "what if" scenarios with them. If we had this information from different Health Boards we could pass this on to Scottish Government Test and Protect team to highlight inconsistencies.

Alison said it would be better if this was driven from Scottish Government? These weekly meetings have been very helpful in agreeing a consistent approach there should be equity of approach for young people and the workforce wherever/whichever Public Health Team/NHS area in Scotland

Action Point: 2 Tom agreed to discuss this with [Redacted] and [Redacted] to agree how this problem can best be raised and resolved with Public Health.

St Mary's school returned this week and all going well.

Family visits - St Mary's have been able to hold indoor visits. Claire offered to share St Mary's route map with Rossie to help with organising indoor visits.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS)

Things are going well returning shielding staff have quickly gone from a position of high anxiety to normal working when they have seen the safety measures in place. ESS YP went back to school last week this has gone well.

ESS have encountered problems accessing testing for a young unaccompanied asylum seeker who had crossed a number of borders to arrive in Edinburgh. ESS have been advised the YP will not be tested unless they are displaying symptoms. David will bring this scenario to the attention of the Test and Protect team.

ESS have two rooms set aside for family visits - they are deep cleaned before and after each visit.

Visitors to Secure Centres

Tom mentioned SCRA are using electrolysed spray to sanitise CH rooms. Rossie said they have also used this spray. Other centres said they had considered using the spray however the cost is prohibitive. The cost of deep cleaning across the whole campus is having an impact. GSC said they are using video link for internal staff meetings to avoid movement and as part of the blended approach.

3. OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM 13 AUGUST MEETING

Action point: SG and members to consider the discussion on deaths of young people in advance of next week's meeting. **Carried forward See Action point below**

Action point: Tom to discuss this with the Promise team and CH before next week. The group to consider how communications can be improved to produce the best decision making at CH.

Tom said he had not been able to engage with the Promise team and was still waiting on their response to his request to meet. CHS policy team have provide information in an e-mail that David shared during the meeting.

Peter said ESS had a good working relationship with within the local authority's continuum of care. The working relationship between the social work practice team and the secure care team is well established and decision making and planning recommendations in relation to secure placements and end of secure placements are almost exclusively by consensus. Where there are occasions where there are differences of opinion these are resolved at young person's planning meeting Therefore the recommendation to the CHS is owned by Social Work / Secure Centre. ESS staff attend all hearings when the young person is in secure their views are listened to and taken in to account. Peter feels this process emphasises the need for LA to work closely with and appreciate the expertise of the secure accommodation team around young people's readiness to move on.

Alison said this seemed to highlight the contrast between an LA run secure unit and independent centres. She said she could not help but think about these issues with her previous hats on – as a Director at CHS and then as secure care national adviser at CYCJ - Peter had described Edinburgh secure care services and the Local Authority and their collective approach to making recommendations to Children's Hearings - Alison commented on the role of the Children's Hearing and that panel members are independent tribunal members, and that the local authority and the secure care centre are independent of each other. She referred back to the role of the Head of Centre re decision making in law around implementation of secure authorisations and the role and legal duties of the Chief Social Work Officer.

Action Point: 3 Tom suggested speaking to **[Redacted]** (SCRA) as the Reporter had the power to invite anyone who has a material contribution to make to the hearing's decision. He would raise during regular Tuesday meeting.

SCRA have recently been able to access additional resource to support digital platforms to allow better connectivity. As part of that, Microsoft Teams should be available later this year - hopefully the package will resolve the connectivity issues for CH's.

The group discussed a number of points and perspectives -

- Secure providers' ability to engage with, and appropriately influence, Children's Hearings decisions where they have been the most recent primary care provider for a child.
- CH training appears to be targeted to avoiding the use of secure care. Only using secure as a last resort.
- Is membership of CHP is not reflective of wider society in terms of demographics, socioeconomic grouping, ethnicity and insight?
- More weight given to YP / families' perspective about secure care placement continuing or ending.
- YP must have a voice that is correct however all relevant voices need to be heard.

- There may be some tension between Social Work and families. CHP may be influenced to side with families and the YP?
- UNCRC and SG Policy against the use or continued use of secure care negates Secure Staff having a strong professional voice at hearings.
- Children's Commissioner's view of secure care also has an impact on the use of secure care?
- YP must have a 12 week LA plan in place when transitioning from secure care

The following was agreed for further exploration:

- This is not about YP having less of a voice - it is about informing the judgement of Hearing after being able to take account of all the facts.
- The Justice Committee and The Promise recommendations will have an impact on the future. Officials are having conversations with Ministers and senior managers how we can best in engage with the Promise team and stakeholders – want to take forward a strategic push on this in the autumn period.
- This meeting is a safe space - we need to have this conversation in a wider diverse group of stakeholders to start constructive dialogue that is not filtered by SG colleagues alone.

Tom thanked everyone for their time and valuable contributions. He would report back on the wider engagement.

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 27 AUGUST 2020

On the call – Louise Morrison (GSC), Kenny Collins (GSC), Jim Crawford (Kibble) [Redacted] (Edinburg Secure Services), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Claire Lundy (St Marys), [Redacted] (Care Inspectorate), Tom McNamara (Scottish Government), Liz Murdoch (Scottish Government) David Cotterell (Scottish Government) [Redacted] (Scotland Excel)

Apologies – Alison Gough (GSC) Sinclair Soutar (Kibble), Peter McCloskey (ESS), [Redacted] (Scotland Excel), [Redacted] (Education Scotland),

1. WELCOME AND MINUTE FROM LAST WEEK

Tom welcomed the group and agreed the note for the 20 of August call with no further changes.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie

Good week for Rossie with no health issues for staff or young people. There has been recent Covid outbreak in Montrose with 17 cases linked to a place of work this has caused some anxiety but so far no impact.

Young people are back at school and all is going well.

Good Shepherd (GSC)

A good week for GSC however with schools going back they have noticed a spike in the need for staff testing. So far all test returned negative it appears it may simply be cold symptoms but measures have to be taken to keep people safe.

Tom asked if there has been any impact on turnaround time for receiving test results. Louise said staff were being asked to travel to Carlisle for testing. GSC challenged this and following some discussions staff were able to be tested locally. Tom urged providers to continue to raise these types of concerns with SG.

GSC are preparing for a 'G in the house' event this will be a virtual event as G in the Park will not be possible this year.

Kibble

This has been a positive week for children however like GSC they have noticed an increased need for staff testing and were also asked if staff could travel to Carlisle.

As schools and nurseries return staff's children have been sent home with symptoms this has had an impact on staff across the campus but not yet a serious issue.

Kibble have found if the test is requested after 6:00 pm it seemed to always result in the offer of a local test.

St Mary's

St Mary's staff have been asked to travel to Belfast for a test which is simply not practical, the problem was resolved and local test arranged. It appears testing teams are stretched with a spike in requests for testing. Results are taking slightly longer but all are being received within 24 – 48 hours.

YP in good health and attending school which is going well.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS)

Things are going well with YP attending school.

No staff tests have been required however there have been cases of flu.

HPS continue to advise unaccompanied asylum seekers with no symptoms should not be tested despite crossing several borders to arrive in Edinburgh. This will be picked up again under outstanding action points.

FLU VACCINATIONS

The group discussed the availability for flu vaccinations for all child residential frontline care staff.

[Redacted] advised that the CI and SSSC had issued a joint statement on 10 August that states all hands on child residential care staff should be eligible to receive the free flu vaccination. This was based on an announcement by Scottish Government.

Mary said all staff at Rossie regardless of their job role will receive the vaccination. Rossie have made a private arrangement with Ninewell hospital to obtain 200 vaccines.

Kibble have made a similar arrangement and will pay for staff that do not meet the eligibility criteria to receive the vaccine.

Claire asked if there was more detail on CI and SSSC statement regarding who is eligible and the timescale for receiving flu jab. There seems little point in making a private arrangement if the majority of staff can access this free of charge.

Action point: 1 **[Redacted]** and David to discuss this offline to gather more information for next week's meeting.

3. OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM 20 AUGUST MEETING

Action point: Tom agreed to source and circulate the SCRA guidance for holding Children's Hearings.

Response - Tom advised that the risk assessment material will be circulated shortly once staff sensitivities have been removed.

Action point: 2 – Tom to circulate SCRA risk assessment for hearings.

Action Point: Tom agreed to discuss the issue of accessing testing for a YP who did not arrive in secure through the normal Scottish channels with **[Redacted]** and **[Redacted]** to agree how this problem can best be raised and resolved with Public Health.

Response - David has raised the issue of testing for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people and those young people not arriving in secure care through normal Scottish routes. David will raise this at the next test and protect meeting.

Action Point: Tom suggested speaking to **[Redacted]** (SCRA) as the Reporter had the power to invite anyone who has a material contribution to make to the hearing's decision.

Tom has spoken to CHS regarding the concerns raised by members.

Tom had a productive call with Fiona McFarlane from the Promise team. Fiona has been asked to consider the voices of young people and the necessity of the care providers having an appropriate role in hearings this is covered in the Promise document. Tom felt there is a real appetite to engage with policy, providers and others to look at the challenges within the Promise around the secure care contract and current configuration of secure care. There is a shared desire to progress this work.

4. WEARING FACEMASKS IN SCHOOLS

The group had a useful discussion on the wearing of face masks in secure centre schools. The unanimous feeling was that the use of face masks in secure schools is not required. Taking in to account the following points.

- The guidance is focused on communal areas and travel to school this does not apply in secure care.
- Class sizes are small normally 3 young people with 2 support staff
- Education is delivered within the same house unit bubble
- Where possible YP are taught in the same class with teachers moving between classes.
- There are no busy corridors or communal areas
- Wide corridors with lots of space
- It is essential young people in secure feel safe building strong relationships is a must trying to do that with a mask is challenging.
- Some units check staff temperatures on arrival at work
- At the moment education staff do not feel the need to wear masks
- If staff or a young person wishes to wear a mask they are available.

There was a concern about the possible future strategic impact. Staff are not using masks at the moment however if staff start to wear face coverings then this could have a knock on effect on care staff and young people also wanting to wear masks.

Summary - Mandatory use of face masks is not appropriate for cluster zones in secure units. There is a child centred adult approach being taken across secure units to provide the best possible care for these vulnerable young people. There will be support offered to YP and staff if they choose to wear a mask.

[Redacted] made the offer through David in advance of the call that anyone who had concerns or questions on the wearing of facemasks in school could contact her direct.

Action point 3: David to speak to **[Redacted]** to check if guidance can include caveats for secure care.

4. AOB

The GSC are planning for a “virtual” G in the park at the end of September – Recovery guidance is explicit around no drama/singing activities. This will be a recorded virtual event and GSC wanted to make sure they are able to use a common sense approach to recording of YP singing.

Action point: 4 Kenny to speak to David to provide more detail on the event so he can liaise with Scottish Government colleagues to get clarity.

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

On the call – Louise Morrison (GSC), Sinclair Soutar (Kibble) [Redacted] (Edinburgh Secure Service), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Claire Lundy (St Marys), [Redacted] (CI), [Redacted] (Scotland Excel), Liz Murdoch (Scottish Government), David Cotterell (Scottish Government).

Apologies – Alison Gough (GSC), Tom McNamara (Scottish Government) Peter McCloskey (ESS), [Redacted] (Scotland Excel), [Redacted] (Education Scotland)

1. WELCOME AND MINUTE FROM LAST WEEK

Liz welcomed the group and agreed the note for the 27 of August call with no further changes.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie

Nothing new to report, staff and young people doing well.

Good Shepherd (GSC)

Good week. Recent guidance changes following small local cluster and new restrictions has had an impact on visits. GSC have revisited protocols and are still able to offer family outdoor visiting facilities.

Kibble

Nothing new to report, schools back and going well young people enjoying the structure. Like GSC, Kibble have responded to the new local restrictions and guidance. This has had an impact on visits however no highlighted issues that cannot be safely managed.

St Mary's

Nothing new to report, staff and young people in good health. Similar to other centre young people enjoying structure of school. Staff also finding things easier as their children return to school. The new guidance and recent outbreaks has impacted on indoor visits. However they are using common sense approach and are still able to offer outdoor visits whilst the weather holds up.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS)

Good week for ESS, no new cases, no issues to report.

3. ACTION POINTS FROM 27 AUGUST

3.1 Flu vaccinations – Rossie and Kibble have arrangements in place. NHS inform guidance states that the vaccine is being offered to social care workers who have a direct hands-on care role while working in secure care. Arrangements will be made locally starting in October through to January but there could be delays due to the increased volume needing the vaccine. Recommendation that providers speak to their local public health teams.

Action point 1: Providers to speak to their local public health teams to obtain more information on free eligible vaccinations and arrange dates.

3.2 SCRA guidance – Tom had advised at the meeting on 27 August that he would circulate the SCRA guidance on holding hearings. As this includes sensitive material this needs to be checked and the sensitive material removed before circulation. This will be circulated as soon as possible.

Action point 2: Tom to circulate the SCRA guidance for holding Children’s Hearings.

3.3 Testing for those not arriving in secure through the normal Scottish channels – It had been agreed at last week’s meeting that this would be raised with internal colleagues and taken to the next test and protect meeting. The view is that the decision to test is a matter for the public health protection team. A meeting of the test and protect group is still to be arranged.

ESS is in conversation with HPS to try and agree a clear response to young people who may have been trafficked/seeking asylum and who are admitted directly to care services.

ESS have also discovered the Testing Team don’t work on Sundays, they are looking at what can be put in place if testing is required over this time. This is not something that can be left till Monday. There is a recognition that if the system is not working is the way it is expected to this raises huge anxieties for staff.

ESS agreed that it would be useful to consider a flow chart for all involved in the process outlining agreed ways forward and will provide more information when known.

Action point: 1 David to keep Scottish Government colleagues informed of issues.

3.4 Wearing facemasks in schools

At last week’s meeting there was unanimous agreement that the decision around the wearing of face masks in senior schools for those over the age of 12 should not apply to those attending education in secure care. David spoke to colleagues and **[Redacted]** (secondment from Education Scotland) who agreed. Advice was sent to the Deputy First Minister who has now following our meeting agreed to the request. The guidance will be updated accordingly.

3.5 G in the House

GSC are planning to hold a virtual G in the house at the end of September and were looking for advice and clarity around whether they could record the young people singing in advance to be shown virtually at the event.

David has since been in contact with Kenny and the problem has been resolved.

Virtual “G in the House” will take place on 24 September.

4. THE PROMISE

There is real appetite to engage with policy, providers and others to look at the challenges within the Promise around the secure care contract and current configuration of secure care. Scottish Government will set up meetings with providers to progress these discussions over the next few months.

5. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

It was agreed at a meeting a few weeks ago that time would be set aside to discuss lessons learned over the past 5 months, in order to prepare for the winter and any further local outbreaks, lockdowns.

A brief discussion took place but it was suggested that this be discussed at the next meeting when Tom and all providers could be in attendance.

6. AOB

Secure Care Group

The group met on Tuesday to discuss the launch of the standards which will take place on 5 October. At the meeting a concern was raised around the timing and the impending outcome of the Children's Commissioners investigation in to the responsibilities of the CSWO when placing a young person in secure. No dates have been confirmed for this and so the launch will still go ahead on 5 October as planned.

Care Inspectorate - Quality framework.

Mary asked when the framework would be available for providers to see. **[Redacted]** does not have that information at the moment but he will forward this on to David once it is available.

Individual Placement Agreement

Louise raised concerns that LA's would adapt the new IPA to meet their own individual needs. GSC normal send the IPA document out when a referral is made it may become a problem if several LA's adapt the document.

[Redacted] said she did not think many LA's would adapt the form however GSC should continue to issue the standard form. If there are any issues contact **[Redacted]** direct.

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

On the call – [Redacted] (GSC), Louise Morrison (GSC), Sinclair Soutar (Kibble) Peter McCloskey (ESS), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Kevin Miller (St Marys), **[Redacted]** (CI), **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel) David Cotterell (Scottish Government) Tom McNamara (Scottish Government) Sinclair Soutar (Kibble)

Apologies – Alison Gough (GSC), Claire Lundy (St Marys), Liz Murdoch (SG) **[Redacted]** (Scotland Excel), **[Redacted]** (Education Scotland)

1. WELCOME AND MINUTE FROM LAST WEEK

Tom welcomed the group and agreed the note of the 3 September with no changes.

Tom asked the group to highlight in their update any impact the increased restrictions in the five Local Authority areas has had on their service.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie

No change things are going well, nothing to report

Good Shepherd (GSC)

The new restrictions have had an impact on GSC they have updated their guidance and will consider each request for visits in or out of the centre on its own merit.

No other changes.

Kibble

Things are good in the safe centre a few young people in the open setting are asymptomatic and have been tested awaiting results.

Kibble have been impacted by local restrictions they are treating each case individually taking in to account guidance and ensuring the safety of young people and staff.

St Mary's

Like other units St Mary's have been impacted by local restrictions they have no onsite visits at this time. St Mary's are continuing with transitions out of the unit in a controlled safe manner.

No other changes.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS)

No change things are good almost all staff have returned to work this is a very positive change as there had been up to 30% of staff absent at the peak.

ESS are working with staff to ensure their safe return and looking out for their welfare.

3. ACTION POINTS FROM 3 SEPTEMBER

Action point: Tom to circulate the SCRA guidance for holding Children's Hearings.

This is still with SCRA and will be circulated when available.

Action point: David to keep Scottish Government colleagues informed of issues with testing for young people arriving at secure care not through the normal pathway.

David has kept colleagues informed of concerns and will raise issues at the next Test and Protect meeting.

Action point: Lessons learned from the covid-19 outbreak A brief discussion took place but it was suggested that this be discussed at the next meeting when Tom and all providers could be in attendance.

Tom said he had taken part in discussions with CHS colleagues on their recovery plan which they hope to finalise on Tuesday, he has also had positive conversations with Fi McFarlane from the Promise team.

Tom said he would share the CHS recovery plan when available and this would hopefully assist with our conversation on Covid lessons learned.

Action Point: 1 - Tom to share the CHS recovery plan and lead Covid recovery discussion.

4. Agenda items

Contact monitoring between Care Inspectorate and Centres

1. **[Redacted]** advised the group the CI plan a resumption of their inspection programme from 1 October. This will be a planned approach based on service risk thresholds. There are no firm details yet on the risk thresholds or level of inspections this will be discussed and agreed in the next three weeks when more information will be available.

They group asked whether visits will be planned or unannounced. **[Redacted]** did not have that detail yet but did say all visits would take account of local restrictions and protocol's in each centre. Inspections may be virtual or blended inspectors will be in touch on a fortnightly basis from now on to consider contingency monitoring.

When **[Redacted]** has more information he will bring this back to the meeting.

2. Mary asked if Scottish Government had a view on encouraging staff to use the new test and trace app which the First Minister is due to announce will go live today?

Action Point: Tom said he did not have any information on this he would check the announcement today and if needed discuss the new app next week. .

AOB

Secure Care Pathway and Standards, Scotland

David gave the group a brief update regarding Secure Care Pathway and Standards, Scotland 5 October launch event. Tom said he has planned conversations with SWS and COSLA in the coming weeks to discuss the impact of implementing the standards in an effort to ensure they land on a positive footing.

Redress

Tom mentioned he had spoken with **[Redacted]** from the Redress team who have been in correspondence with secure centres. Tom thought it would be helpful if the centres were able to take up the Redress team's offer of engaging with them.

SECURE CARE TELE CONFERENCE CALL 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

On the call – Alison Gough (GSC), Sinclair Soutar (Kibble) Peter McCloskey (ESS), Mary Geaney (Rossie), Claire Lundy (St Marys), [Redacted] (Care Inspectorate), [Redacted] (Education Scotland), David Cotterell (Scottish Government) Liz Murdoch (Scottish Government)

Apologies – [Redacted] (Scotland Excel), [Redacted] (Scotland Excel), Tom McNamara (Scottish Government)

1. WELCOME AND NOTE FROM LAST WEEK

Liz welcomed the group and agreed the note of 10 September meeting with no changes.

2. SECURE CENTRE UPDATES

Rossie -. Rossie have had two staff tested in the last week both returned negative. Things are going well with nothing to report this week.

Good Shepherd (GSC) – A GSC support member of staff has recently tested positive for Covid-19. GSC are working with Public Health and track and trace who have contacted one other member of staff (who was in contact with the staff member who has Covid-19 out with work at GSC). Due to the processes in place in GSC Public Health are satisfied that the staff member was not in close contact with other staff or any young people re 'close contact' . GSC are taking a cautious approach and will continue to monitor the situation closely. GSC currently have two other staff isolating at home (one awaiting test results due to being symptomatic and one whose child is symptomatic).

Alison raised concerns about the mixed messages on staff accessing the flu vaccination and said it would be good to get clarity on how staff can access vaccinations.

Mary advised Rossie have arranged for eligible staff to be vaccinated on site in October and will pay for no eligible staff to receive the vaccination. Mary is happy for other centres to contact Rossie to get more information on how this process was arranged.

Kibble have contacted Public Health and have been informed eligible staff will get access to a local pharmacy of their choice to receive the vaccination. Sinclair has shared the e-mail with this information.

Alison hopes more detailed information will be available from public health in the next couple of weeks.

Alison wanted to note her thanks to colleagues for sharing good practice in recent months especially Rossie who have been working with GSC over the last week.

Kibble

Nothing new to report on Covid cases. There are no young people with symptoms.

Kibble have noticed an increase in staff absences which have risen to the same level of absence as in July 2020. Kibble will monitor this closely.

Kibble have started work again on their Brexit plan and said it would be good to have a separate call to discuss issues. Liz said she had planned to raise this and it would be picked up later in the meeting.

Local restrictions are having an impact more so in the open settings with issues around home visits and transitions. Each case is assessed individually and plans put in place on its own merits.

St Mary's

No Covid related issues however staff absence has increased mostly due to child care with schools sending children home. St Mary's resilience committee will monitor the situation.

St Mary's are still seeking clarity on staff flu vaccine it appears primary school children may be being prioritised.

Hopefully more information on vaccines will be available next week. If staff are not vaccinated soon there is little doubt absence rates will increase.

Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS) – Peter

Things are good in Edinburgh. Staffing levels are back to almost full capacity with only 3 vulnerable staff shielding.

City of Edinburgh hope to finalise flu vaccination planning for eligible staff in the next couple of weeks.

There is a bout of cold / flu going around however all recent Covid tests have returned negative. There are concerns positive tests may arise soon as we move towards the winter months.

3. ACTION POINTS FROM 10 September

Action Point: - Tom to share the CHS recovery plan and lead Covid recovery discussion.

Cleared – The paper will be circulated as soon as it is available.

Action Point: - Mary asked if Scottish Government had a view on encouraging staff to use the new test and trace app which the First Minister is due to announce will go live today?

Tom said he did not have any information on this he would check the announcement today and if needed discuss the new app next week.

Cleared – It is a personal choice to use the app however Scottish Government are encouraging people to download and use the App.

4. Agenda items

Impact of new restrictions.

All centres are mindful of new restrictions which have had an impact. All units have updated route maps / contingency plans. The work units carried out during full lockdown has helped with managing the new restrictions. Centres continue to make good use of online communications. The main challenges are around transitions and home visits but each centre is treating each cases individually based on safety, the young persons' needs and wellbeing. LA and Social work are involved in the conversations and decisions.

Indoor activities – PE for children

[Redacted] acknowledged that centres have been using indoor space since lockdown began so understandably there were questions of why they would have to stop now. This would also possibly confuse and alarm young people.

[Redacted] advised the guidance reissued on 14 September is generic guidance for mainstream schools. In conversation with colleagues there is an acceptance the guidance does not work well for secure care however it is not in their gift to change that.

[Redacted] has asked the Education Recovery Group to consider easements for secure care based on their unique circumstances that young people live and socialize in their own 6 bed house unit.

The message she has received is if a robust risk assessment is in place for the use of indoor facilities it can override the guidance and indoor space could be used to protect the wellbeing of young people. **[Redacted]** apologised for not being able to pass on a stronger clear message. Following discussion the group was confident they all have sufficient robust risk assessments in place that allow them to use indoor facilities. The group thanked **[Redacted]** for her efforts to resolve this issue.

Secure Centres gaining access to hold on site testing kits

Kibble had recently been informed by public health they would not be able to hold onsite Covid test kits due to the handling issues. Rossie confirmed despite having a staff member trained to administer the test they no longer held test kits on site. This was mostly due to the restrictions around secure handling and transportation of tests.

Due to the difficulties in accessing any test at the moment it appears this situation is unlikely to change in the short-term. If and when there is new information we will bring this back to the meeting.

AOB

BREXIT

The group felt there seems to be a more relaxed approach towards BREXIT planning than there was last year. The units have their contingency plans in place and some have started to work through them again. There was a lot of activity late last year with enquiries from LA's and other stakeholders requesting information from centres on their plans. This is likely to happen again in the coming months. The group thought it would be helpful to have a separate meeting to discuss BREXIT planning and what support the Government and Scotland Excel could provide.

Action point: 1 David to contact colleagues to gather information on up to date BREXIT guidance and arrange a meeting in mid to end of October to discuss plans.

The Promise

Alison asked if there was any update on how the Promise team may engage with secure care. Liz advised Tom had held very positive talks with Fi McFarlane and there appeared to be a real appetite to engage with secure providers. The Promise team is still working on their recruitment exercise and when this is completed in the next few weeks Liz expects there will be more information available.