

Falkirk

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Sent: 18 February 2019 12:52

To: Info <info@cypcs.org.uk>

Subject: FW: Restraint and Seclusion

Importance: High

Please find attached Falkirk Council's response. I would like to apologise for the delay which arose due to staff absence.

Kind Regards

David

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Falkirk Council response to the recommendations to the Children's Commissioner- Restraint and Seclusion in Scotland's Schools December 2018.

1. A service circular: **Pupil Safety /Medical Matters No 2** exists in Falkirk Council for educational establishments to provide advice and guidance on physical intervention (restraint). This circular requires updating in line with the recommendations from the Children's Commissioner Report. This will be updated by the end of February 2019. Falkirk Council is also scoping a new provider which will support mainstream practitioners and appropriate specialist provisions safely support children and young people nearing crisis. Training will be dependent on assessed need and risk and will train practitioners in the use of antecedent planning, de-escalation approaches, and techniques to decrease the likelihood of escalation of behaviours that may require physical intervention.

There is a current policy in place for those staff who are trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI). Currently TCI is integral to some specialist provisions and all local authority residential care homes to prevent crisis, plan interventions to deescalate crisis, effectively manage crisis, reduce injury and for staff, children and young people to learn ways to handle future stressful situations. This approach uses a staged approach prior to physical intervention as a last resort.

2. A clear definition from the Scottish Government of what restraint and seclusion means would further support developing suitable policy. Consideration of the use of the “bild Code of Practice” within Scotland for minimising the use of physical intervention.
3. Falkirk Council currently has a standardised form (HR14). Falkirk Council would wish to see the draft of the Standardised National form for comment.
4. The Scottish Government should analyse and publish this data but no local authority should be named in the statistics. It should be the national picture.
5. Falkirk Council already has an Individual Crisis Management plan in children services. This, or a similar planning tool, will be reviewed for implementation across all educational establishments.
All children and young people with Additional Support Needs in educational establishments are supported by the integrated assessment framework. Which is underpinned by the GIRFEC national practice model.
6. All of Falkirk Council educational establishments should record restraint and seclusions. A reminder will be sent by the Head of Education to all Educational establishments.
7. Falkirk Council agree that national policy and guidance is clearly set with a human rights framework.
8. Practical impact of respect for rights on practice would be welcomed and should include case studies to support developing understanding and practices.
9. Falkirk Council agree that the Scottish Government should develop a clear rights-based definition of both restraint and seclusion.
10. Agreed see answer above (7, 8 & 9)
11. Agreed as above
12. Agreed as above
13. Within Falkirk Council all training providers state *“Physical interventions should only be used when the child or young person’s behaviour carries an immediate risk of physical harm to another child , staff member or an any other individual’s present. These interventions should be used as a means of ensuring the safety of all individual’s”*.
14. Clarification required that the “child’s plan” referred to within the recommendations is the same ‘Child’s Plan’ with the GIRFEC National Practice model, or, is this a recommendation for another planning document?
15. Within the Social Emotional and Behavioural Needs sector it is common practice to have an agreed plan in advance with the child, parents/ carers. However a consistent approach is required across all educational establishments within Falkirk Council.
16. This is normal practice that child’s plans are reviewed regularly after an incident.
17. The practice used within Falkirk Council’s specialist provisions and promoted within Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training ensures that parents and carers are informed in every instance of restraint or seclusion. A reminder is required to come out to all educational establishments from the Head of Education to make contact with parents and carers as soon as possible after an incident involving seclusion or restraint.

18. The practice used within Falkirk Council's specialist provisions and promoted through Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training ensures that children and young people, in every instance of restraint or seclusion, are involved in incident planning and post crisis learning. A reminder is required to come out to all Educational establishments from the Head of Education to ensure a consistent approach across all educational establishments.
19. Within recent specialist inspections within Falkirk Council this practice takes place as part of safeguarding meetings and discussions during inspection. Unable to comment on consistency within mainstream inspection processes.
20. In principle it is agreed that local authorities should ensure that restraint and seclusion is only carried out by staff members trained to do so. However, further guidance should be taken by the Scottish Government regarding dynamic situations and duty of care to pupils and staff.
For example: 'a child running onto a road with oncoming traffic, staff member grabs hold of the child to restrict their movement and avoid running onto the road' would be considered a restraint however, may be undertaken by a staff member who has not been trained in restraint. Further guidance as to what restraint and seclusion means and in what context- definitions are required.
21. Agreed
22. Further clarification required.
What does 'medical provision' within article 27 Seclusion and Restraint mean local authorities must have in place within provisions and placements who may require to undertake restraint? Could this mean that educational staff members have to be medically trained?