

Fife

FIRST CLASS

Children & Young People's Commissioner
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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

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Your Ref
Our Ref: CL/LD

Date: 31 January 2019

Dear Mr Adamson

No Safe Place: Restraint and Seclusion in Scotland's Schools

Thank you for your recent report on restraint and seclusion with the executive summary detailing 22 recommendations.

In Fife we have developed this work as part of our work on Relationships and Behaviour. We have a policy on restraint and seclusion that we will now undertake to review in light of your report. As part of this revision, we will be exploring use of recording data to inform practice, training requirements and support. We will also use this revision of our policy to ensure that children and young people are involved in a meaningful way.

It would be really important in our context to ensure that there is a well understood and well-communicated distinction between the use of a supervised, separate space as a planned response and a child placed in a room on their own as you describe in recommendation 11. Guidance from the Scottish Government would certainly help in ensuring clearly understood acceptable practice and use of consistent terminology.

In Fife, across our children's Services as well as in schools, we adopt a children's rights based approach with many of our schools gaining Rights Respecting Schools status. Our development of Restraint and Seclusion will also come from a children's rights based approach.

We look forward to any further guidance, information or communication that may help us to ensure we are able to fulfil the recommendations as detailed in your report.

In Fife, we are keen as a local authority to work in partnership with those that champion the rights of our children. We would hope that any future reports on investigations led by yourself would take account of a partnership approach in an attempt to make sure we work together to get it right for our children and young people in Fife and beyond.

Yours sincerely

Carrie Lindsay
Executive Director (Education & Children's Services)