

## **Argyll and Bute**

01/02/2019

### **Argyll and Bute Council Response to the 22 recommendations in “No Safe Place- Restraint and Seclusion in Scottish Schools”**

#### **Recommendation 1**

Local authorities should, as a matter of urgency, ensure that no restraint or Seclusion takes place in the absence of clear consistent policies and procedures at local authority level to govern its use.

We have identified that our staged intervention framework and Managing Challenging behaviour guide need to be reviewed and updated in response to this recommendation.

#### **Recommendation 2**

Local authorities should record all incidents of restraint and seclusion in schools on a standardised national form. Anonymised statistical data should be reported to the Scottish Government’s Children and Families Directorate.

We will follow this procedure when the government issue the standardised form for this. We currently have a log for schools to keep for incidents where restraint has been used – page 33 of the Managing Challenging Behaviour Guide. We need to ask for this to be sent to school support twice a year, then it can be collated to give an authority wide data set.

#### **Recommendation 5**

Local authorities should ensure that all recording forms at school level include sections for de-escalation techniques considered and attempted, the child’s and parents and carers views. They should be incorporated into the assessment and planning processes in place under Additional Support for Learning legislation and Staged Intervention processes, as well as the GIRFEC National Practice Model and SEEMiS data management system.

We need to develop a form or checklist for this – this could be completed by HTs and sent in to school support twice a year.

#### **Recommendation 6**

In the interim, all local authorities should ensure that they are recording all incidents of restraint and seclusion.

We need to develop a database for this. Then this recommendation can be easily undertaken and a reporting system from schools can be established so the data is held centrally by school support. There is an existing reporting and recording form in the Managing Challenging behaviour guide – pages 27-32. We should also add a recording section to confirm de-escalation techniques have been used.

**Recommendation 12**

Local authorities should amend their policies where necessary to make clear that damage to property should only be a justification for the use of restraint or seclusion when it presents an immediate risk of harm to the child or another individual. The same principle should be reflected in national policy and guidance.

We have noticed the wording of standard circular 2.26 Violence and aggression towards staff: advice on procedures and practice refers to restraint in section 5.3. This does not accurately state our position - that we do not practise restraint nor should anyone in Education be using restraint techniques unless it is a life-saving situation, or even say that restraint is a last resort. We can change this in line with the national policy and guidance.

**Recommendation 14**

Local authorities should ensure that the child's plan includes de-escalation techniques and a risk assessment.

This should be built into Well-being app, staff training and also into named person training as part of the routine when writing plans for pupils that have this level of need and or intervention.

**Recommendation 15**

Local authorities should ensure that all children considered to potentially require physical intervention have a plan agreed in advance with the child and their parent(s) and/ or carer(s).

We need to check the plans to ensure the parent and child have been involved in the process of producing the plan. We need to incorporate this into the Managing Challenging behaviour guidance. Essentially this should result in an appropriate child plan with a behaviour protocol attached, so they are reviewed together.

**Recommendation 16**

Local authorities should ensure that the child's plan is reviewed on a regular basis, as well as following any incident of restraint or seclusion.

We need to incorporate this into the Managing Challenging behaviour guidance. East Renfrewshire Council has been identified as having good practice for this recommendation in the document – page 38.

**Recommendation 17**

Local authorities should ensure that parents and carers are informed as soon as reasonably practicable in every instance when restraint or seclusion is used on their child and offered the chance to take part in a post-incident review.

This could be built in as part of the checklist/ review process identified in recommendation 16. We need to incorporate this into the Managing Challenging behaviour guidance.

**Recommendation 18**

Local authorities should ensure that the views of the child are sought, recorded and reflected in all planning, risk assessment and post-incident reviews.

This could be built in as part of the checklist/ review process identified in recommendation 16. We need to incorporate this into the Managing Challenging behaviour guidance.

**Recommendation 20**

Local authorities should ensure that restraint and seclusion is only carried out by staff members who are trained to do so.

We will have a register of staff that are CALM trained. This will detail dates and levels of trained achieved and also project when refresher training is required.

This has implications for our CALM trainers – we have already identified a need here and have a priority to ensure more staff are trained as trainers to enable us to increase our capacity in this area.

**Recommendation 21**

Local authorities should provide training to staff on a proportionate basis, with only those who have been assessed as needing training receiving it.

This ties in with the action point for recommendation 20. Alongside that, schools and key specialist staff will work together to observe and assess the situation before a staff member is trained in CALM techniques.