

## West Dunbartonshire

31 January 2019

In response to the Children's Commissioner's Review of Restraint and Seclusion - No Safe Place , West Dunbartonshire Council welcomes the report and findings and note the recommendations contained therein. We are currently reviewing our policy, practice and continuing professional learning to support this area.

Kind regards

**Claire Cusick**

**Senior Education Officer**

Services for Children and Young People

**Education, Learning & Attainment**

**Third Floor**

**West Dunbartonshire Council**

**Aurora House**

**Queens Quay**

**Clydebank**

**G81 1BF**

*Phone:* 01389 777380



**From:** Nick Hobbs <[nick.hobbs@cypcs.org.uk](mailto:nick.hobbs@cypcs.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 05 April 2019 14:31

**Subject:** FAO Director of Education - Restraint and Seclusion investigation

**FAO Director of Education**

Dear Sir/Madam

Our office published a report of our investigation into Restraint and Seclusion in Scotland's Schools on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. A number of recommendations in that report were directed at local authorities. The report included a 'requirement to respond'.

Specifically, in terms of sub-sections 11(2A) and 11(2B) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003, you are required to provide a statement in writing to the Commissioner setting out, either:

- what you have done or propose to do in response to the recommendations; or
- if you do not intend to do anything in response to the recommendations, the reasons for that

Although I am sure the recommendations have been discussed extensively within the authority and we have received a response from you, it does not make clear whether you accept all of the recommendations of the report or not. We do not wish to make assumptions and would like to ensure that positions are clear. For the avoidance of doubt therefore - please let us know by close of play on **Monday 15th April** if there are any recommendations relevant to your authority that you do not accept and why.

**Please note that we will shortly be publishing in full all responses received from local authorities.**

Kind regards

**Nick Hobbs**

Head of Advice and Investigations  
Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland  
Bridgeside House  
99 McDonald Road  
Edinburgh  
EH7 4NS

Tel: 0131 346 5350 /  
Young Persons' Freephone: 0800 019 1179

**From:** Claire Cusick <[Claire.Cusick@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Cusick@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 15 April 2019 16:50

**To:** Nick Hobbs <[nick.hobbs@cypcs.org.uk](mailto:nick.hobbs@cypcs.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: FAO Director of Education - Restraint and Seclusion investigation

Good Afternoon Nick,

With regards to your email below, I wish to respond on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) to the points below regarding recommendations from Restraint and Seclusion in Scotland's Schools.

- what you have done or propose to do in response to the recommendations

WDC agrees and accepts the recommendations and has identified areas for review and implementation.

We have already actioned a number of these via policy review, professional learning and awareness raising events.

We have reviewed and updated our Policy, reflecting recommendations, which is in the process of being approved and has been consulted widely upon. Thereafter, an awareness raising programme will commence clarifying expectations and standards in relation to Restraint and Seclusion in schools.

We support all schools in promoting positive relationships policies and implementation. It is our expectation is that de-escalation techniques are an integral part of whole school approaches to positive relationships with all pupils and that they would feature in an individual's plan where the risk of challenging/distressed behaviour is highly likely. As with any Child's Plan, these would reflect the views of the parent and child/young person and shared accordingly.

We have invested in a programme of CLPL to ensure a sustainable and most up to date means of planning and providing appropriate staff training to those who need it; monitoring and record keeping of de-escalation and restraint training via MAPPA.

We await SG clarification/publication on the following point which will then be adapted for WDC use;

- All incidents are recorded at establishment level and link Education Officer informed until such times as updated Standardised National Data collection sheet is shared. WDC will then adapt this for central use
- if you do not intend to do anything in response to the recommendations, the reasons for that

Not applicable

I hope this provides you with the information you require. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require further clarity.

Kind regards  
Claire Cusick