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Our Ref: FL/JS



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

Dear Mr Hobbs

Restraint and Seclusion in Scotland's Schools

Thank you for your letters of 14 December 2018 and 14 February 2019 and please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your initial correspondence.

In response to the Report's Recommendations, East Ayrshire Council have procedural guidance and approaches that support work in this area. The information detailed below is underpinned by East Ayrshire's Relationships Framework, which was agreed at the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, September 2017. Implementation across education is well underway to develop a relational approach to support all of our children and young people. This approach was highlighted within the *Services for Children and Young People in East Ayrshire Inspection Report, March 2018*:

Leaders demonstrated collective ownership and a shared commitment to embedding the culture, systems and practices of the Getting it Right for Every Child approach across services. This was supporting a shared way of working and common language, underpinned by a strong approach to practice that was based on relationships, as set out in East Ayrshire's Relationships Framework. With a strong focus on nurture and rights-based practice, staff were embedding these core principles in their work.

In relation to the specific matters referred to, there is Standard Circular guidance in place, which has been developed in accordance with *Included, Engaged and Involved Part Two*, taking account of the advice on promoting positive relationships, de-escalation, seclusion, and that physical intervention/restraint is only used as a last resort. Supporting paperwork will reflect national advice on recording procedures including reference to individual interventions and effective strategies for de-escalation, and supports to prevent challenging behaviour arising.

In East Ayrshire we have an electronic system for recording incidents of violence and restraint. All school exclusions are recorded according to national guidelines and as detailed within relevant Standard Circulars. Performance management arrangements are in place for monitoring and support purposes.

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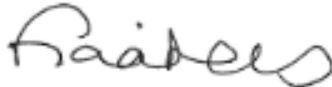
In relation to Recommendations 14-18, and with reference to the assessment planning process in Recommendation 5, established good practice is in place to support the principles and practice of Additional Support for Learning legislation, and the GIRFEC National Practice Model. This is articulated within our GIRFEC Standard Circular for practitioners.

In relation to the provision of training for de-escalation, physical intervention and restraint, the authority have in place access to training for staff across all establishments as required, particularly in specialist establishments and teams.

In terms of immediate next steps, Senior Education Managers are working closely with Scottish Government colleagues to take forward the implementation of *Included, Engaged and Involved Part Two*.

I trust this response is helpful and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Lees
Chief Executive