# ExChange Webinar 09/09/2020
# Secure Children's Homes
# (Secure Accommodation)

# Dr. Annie Williams

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYŐ

CASCADE
Children's Social Care
Research and Development Centre
Canolfan Ymchwil a Datblygu
Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant

# Overview

- Secure Accommodation  background

- The Welsh project

- Conclusions and recommendations

- Further information

- Questions

# Background: What are Secure Children's Homes & who uses them?

- Residential homes with approval to restrict the liberty of young people

- Young people from England & Wales enter SCH via the justice system or on welfare grounds (Unlike some Scandinavian countries and Scotland where all cases seen as a child protection issue).

- Children and young people referred to SCHs on welfare grounds: aged 10-17 years of age; believed to be a serious risk to themselves; a risk to others, or has absconded previously and is likely to abscond from other accommodation                    (SSWB (Wales) Act 2014, Children Act 1989)

- Common risk factors: Absconding; Substance Misuse, Child sexual exploitation; Aggression; Gang involvement; Offending;  Self harm; Suicide

# Background Knowledge

- Very little research in England & Wales on use of secure care for welfare reasons

- Existing knowledge tend to look at aspects of secure care (e.g. restraint (Hart, 2008); Health care (Mooney et al, 2007,) solitary confinement', (Children's Commissioner)

- No reliable evidence about profile, experiences or outcomes of English or Welsh children placed in SCH

# The young people who use SA for welfare reasons

- Chaotic backgrounds: high levels of abuse, neglect, bereavement (e.g Hart and La Valle 2016; Gibson, 2020)

- Long known to services but late sustained intervention

- Can enter via welfare or justice system.

- Some opposition to mixing youth justice and welfare provision, despite recognition of similarities between two groups. LAs would be more confident about using a SCH if it solely provides welfare placements. (Held, 2006).

# SA locations

From Webster, 2018

Legend:

- YJB and Welfare
- YJB only
- Welfare only
- Scottish SCH (YJB & welfare)
- Welsh SCH (YJB & welfare)
- Scottish SCH (does not take English young people)

|  | SCH welfare | SCH mixed |
|---|---|---|
| Av. stay length | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| Rooms locked night | yes | yes |
| Average staff/YP | 0.65, 0.36 | 0.53, 0.51 |
| Total number beds | 80 | 94 |
| Gendered beds | 0 M; 22 F; 58 mixed | 12 M; 17 F; 65 mixed |
| Age range | 10 - 17 | 10 – 17 |

Adapted from Webster, 2018

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# Pattern of SCH use for welfare reasons over time

- Number English & Welsh young people in SCHs decreased over last 10 years

- **But** welfare secure placements across England and Wales risen from 37 per cent in 2010 to 47 per cent in 2018 and 56% in 2019 (DfE, 2019)

- Welsh SCH recent welfare referrals showed slight increase. 22 referrals March 2017 : 34 March 2018.

- Accounts suggest SCHs ref in Wales has decreased since 2018 but DoLs risen.

# The  Project
# The experiences and outcomes of young people from Wales receiving secure accommodation orders.

Hannah Bayfield, Martin Elliott, Rhiannon Evans, Sara Long, Annie Williams, Honor Young

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# The Brief

Aim: To understand the lived experiences of young people from Wales prior to, during and following SCH/AA.

- The life histories of young people before SCHs orders

- Young people's experiences before , during and after time in a SCH

- How well young people were supported &influenced by therapeutic models

- When/How decisions and plans were made for a young person's future following SCH

- The outcomes, wellbeing and stability of young people's placement after SCH

- What happened when SCH were made, but YP received alternative accommodation

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# Methods

- Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2018, 21 of the 22 Welsh local authorities successfully applied for SCH Orders. All were contacted and 19 took part.

- Data sources: routinely collected local authority data & case files, interviews with 11 young people, 30 social workers  & range of further key stakeholders

- LA staff contacted young people and key stakeholders to arrange project interviews.

# Quantitative Findings

- 21 Welsh local authorities applied for secure accommodation orders

- 56 secure accommodation orders for 43 young people were granted.

- Over 50% of orders saw young people placed in  SA outside Wales.

- Less than 25% of the young people were placed in welfare only units.

- Girls & boys equally likely to enter secure accommodation on welfare grounds

- Little use of alternative accommodation .

Please watch this short video (less than four minutes) before moving on to the next slide:



Or paste this link into your brower:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RtaK87fIKc

# Area of concern 1:
# Placement Availability- how can we help?

**Problem:** Lack of placements capable of recognising and addressing young people's needs before, during and after secure accommodation

- **Response**:
  Development and provision of national commissioning strategy that ensures LAs are able to meet these young people needs at any point of residential or secure care.
- **Response:**
  Necessary regional development to allow national commissioning strategy facilitation.

**Problem:** Foster and residential care placements require a model of therapy likely to meet the needs of these young people

- **Response:**
  Existing models should be identified and explored for efficacy /new models developed if necessary.

**Problem:** Many carers unable to provide young people with consistent sufficient care

- **Response:**
  Further training for carers looking after young people with high levels of need before and after SA.
- **Response:**
  Provision of accessible support for carers during placements.

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# Area of concern II:
# Mental health services: meeting C & YPs needs?

**Problem:** Many young people did not receive sufficient and/or appropriate mental health support before, during or after secure accommodation

- **Response:**
  An additional level of service that can overcome barriers to mental health service use (e.g. mental illness diagnosis, service engagement, living in secure environment).

- **Response:**
  A service that ensures young people have access to services for behavioural and emotional problems as well as specific mental illnesses.

**Problem:** Despite social workers knowledge of the young person's history and needs they have little power in accessing or influencing mental health service involvement

- **Response:** A multi-agency co-commissioning approach to mental health service provision.

# Area of Concern III:
# Secure accommodation: a better experience?

**Problem:** Applying for secure order and SA is stressful for young people and social services

- **Response:**
  A national drive to collate best practice & therefore best support young people and social workers.
- **Response:**
  Best practice ensures young people made aware of applications, given opportunity to attend proceedings, and have their opinion sought and considered with the help of advocacy if desired or needed.
- **Response:**
  Secure transport is better regulated, young people accompanied by trusted individual.

**Problem:** Austere SAs are disliked and seen as inappropriate by many young people placed on welfare grounds

- **Response:**
  Collaborative work with young people to improve the look/feel of the SA units used.

**Problem:** Services (education, health services and therapy) provided in SA cease on release

- **Response:**
  Revision to ensure to positive effects of services used in SA are sustained by provision of comparable afterwards.
- **Response:**
  Development of a national integrated multi-agency co-commissioning approach to plan the transitions from SA.

**Problem:** placements far from home makes regular contact between young people , families and social workers difficult and expensive.

- **Response:**
  Young people should be placed as close to home as possible.

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# Wider United Kingdom – stories of similar backgrounds

England:

- Development of a commissioning partnership stream (Part of NHS England 5 year plan for young people's mental health) to co-ordinate the planning , commissioning and intended outcomes of of health and justice, local authorities, third sector

- Work focused ion the needs of groups of young people with complex needs including those into & out of SCHs settings

- Works with other streams : Community FCAMHS & Framework of Integrated Care (SECURE STAIRS).

- Secure stairs: Aim: integrated care for young people in custody using trauma-informed, evidence-based approaches. Anagram for a whole system approach in which all staff can access supervision and support; providing individually tailored care promoting understanding of young people's difficulties and how to best support them                                        (Twitchett, 2018)

# Scotland : Pathways and standards for secure care

- Improve the experiences and seek to provide better outcomes for young people; through a coherent set of expectations and standards across the continuum of intensive supports

- Ensure that children and young people are treated with respect and dignity, and that the human and children's rights they are all entitled to are upheld

- Complement the National Health and Social Care Standards and the legal requirements, ethos and principles set out in all the relevant existing statutory and practice guidance

- Set out what young people and their families should expect from professionals and Corporate Parents when a young person is being intensively supported in the community or in a secure care setting, following the journey  Nolan, 2019
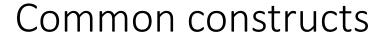
# Northern Ireland

- A bespoke trauma-informed framework of integrated therapeutic care is currently in development
- The framework will be developed and implemented across looked after and adopted children's care services, including secure settings,
- The framework intends to creating greater alignment across welfare and juvenile justice provision

# Common constructs

- Trauma –based

- Relationship  based

- Holistic care

- Co-commissioned integrated care – health; social services; third sector; justice – before, during and after SCH

- Care based around the needs of the child

# Any Questions?

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