



Workforce Brief No.8

Secure Care Procedure

Audience

- Professionals with lead responsibilities for child protection
- Practitioners required to contribute towards child protection processes
- Senior managers across all agencies

Moray Children Services Partnership has undertaken the revision of previous procedure, focusing on secure accommodation, with a view to further involve partners in the processes. The review was guided by feedback from service users and staff as well as national best practice and the recently enforced Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024.

From 1st March 2024 (soft launch)

Having a robust procedure around the use of secure accommodation for young persons is crucial. It ensures that secure accommodation is used only when it is in a young person's best interest and/or because it will protect the rights of others. Depriving a young person of their liberty infringes upon the rights to freedom of association and family life. Placing a young person in secure accommodation requires our fullest consideration.

The Secure Care Procedure, as part of Moray's multiagency approach to the protection and support of children and young people, outlines arrangements for working with a young person who may meet criteria for placement in secure accommodation. Specifically, the procedure clarifies:

- Key responsibilities (with checklists and leaflets to aid practitioners)
- Legal conditions for and routes to secure accommodation
- The function and scope of the multiagency Secure Care Screening Panel
- Key considerations and practical steps to apply the Secure Care Standards

What does this mean for staff?

Practitioners who have a role working alongside young people are invited to familiarise themselves with the procedure, given that it outlines that referral to the Secure Care Screening Panel may be accepted by a Social Work Service Manager from a multiagency meeting (e.g., Interagency Referral Discussion, Child Protection Planning Meeting, Looked After Child Review). Specific responsibilities are outlined within.

Senior Social Workers/Management/Child Protection Leads are asked to provide guidance and support to staff. Specific responsibilities of key staff members are outlined in the procedure.

For more information, click [here](#) to read the full procedure.

Agency specific queries can be directed to your Child Protection representative:

Education: Lynne Riddoch & Hazel Sly

Social Work: Donna Borek & Lizette Van Zyl

Police: Graeme Forbes

Health: Joanna McAulay

Or email mcpc@moray.gov.uk with your questions and feedback.

