



Ministry
of Justice

Alex Chalk MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Sir Bob Neill MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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31 August 2021

Dear Sir Bob,

REPORT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CUSTODY (PART 2) - UPDATE

In my letter dated 26 April regarding the government response to the Justice Select Committee's Twelfth Report of Session 2019-2021: Children and Young People in Custody (Part 2), I promised to write to you in the summer with an update on the revised Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) syllabus and on the planned programme of training for staff.

As you are aware, we have been progressing work to remove the use of pain inducing techniques from the main syllabus, to be used only in an emergency situation when either the child, a member of staff or a third party is at risk of serious harm, with a suite of training to be provided for staff to ensure full implementation and understanding. It is anticipated that the new syllabus will have been reviewed by the end of August, with consideration and approval via the necessary governance processes to follow thereafter.

To ensure the effectiveness of the new syllabus and approach, the Youth Custody Service (YCS) is aiming to conduct a trial at an identified site (which is due to be Feltham), with commencement of training for staff in November followed by an evaluation, ahead of a wider roll out. This will form part of a revised Behavioural Management package, linked to the YCS Behavioural Management strategy, with staff receiving a minimum of two days training, linked to other aspects of the strategy including the Custody Support Plan (CuSP). It is envisaged that the trial will take around three months in all to conduct, followed by a further three months for evaluation, with eight months to a wider roll out if successful as is anticipated.

I hope you find this update of interest, and demonstrates the work taking place to deliver on our commitment. Thank you again for your continued interest in the youth secure estate.

Yours sincerely,

ALEX CHALK MP