**Secure Welfare Placements**

**Coordination Unit Update**

The Secure Welfare Co-ordination Unit in Hampshire has been in commission since May 2016. During this time, the unit has identified areas of development to support the referral process and the understanding of the service. Over the last six months the unit has:

* Created a guidance booklet to support the referral process for local authorities, this includes the process, FAQ’s and the statement of responsibility: [www.securechildrenshomes.org.uk/referrals-new](http://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/_HAoC0Vp3HK38ES8UcK4?domain=securechildrenshomes.org.uk)
* Worked with home managers to develop three mock referral forms based on CSE, mental health and offending behaviours to support local authorities in making a referral: [www.securechildrenshomes.org.uk/referrals-new](http://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/_HAoC0Vp3HK38ES8UcK4?domain=securechildrenshomes.org.uk)
* The unit continues to produce case studies and comparison case studies to highlight the journey of some young people referred to the unit and why they might require a secure welfare placement. The Secure Accommodation Network (SAN) will be using these to take learning from the young people referred, as the case studies also highlight if a placement was able to be identified, the length of time this took or if the young person was not accepted for a bed and the reasons why
* The unit has continued to expand its data collection over time and now holds a wealth of information about the secure welfare estate and the young people being referred, recent lines of inquiry include reasons for beds being closed and the need for higher staffing ratios.

The DfE has extended Hampshire County Council’s grant to continue running the Secure Welfare Coordination Unit to March 2020 whilst plans for central commissioning for welfare placements are further developed.