

Children and Young People in Secure Care

Focused on children most at risk, our fundamental purpose is to:

- make effective decisions about a need to refer a child to a Children's Hearing
- enable children and families to participate in Hearings
- provide suitable accommodation for Children's Hearings
- disseminate information and data to inform and influence improved outcomes for children and young people

Background

The main reasons why children are placed in secure care are because they are a risk to themselves (e.g. drug and/or alcohol use, risk of sexual exploitation, self harming) or there is a high risk of them absconding. Although about three quarters have been involved in offending, in very few cases this is the main reason they are placed in secure care.

Secure Authorisations made by Children's Hearings

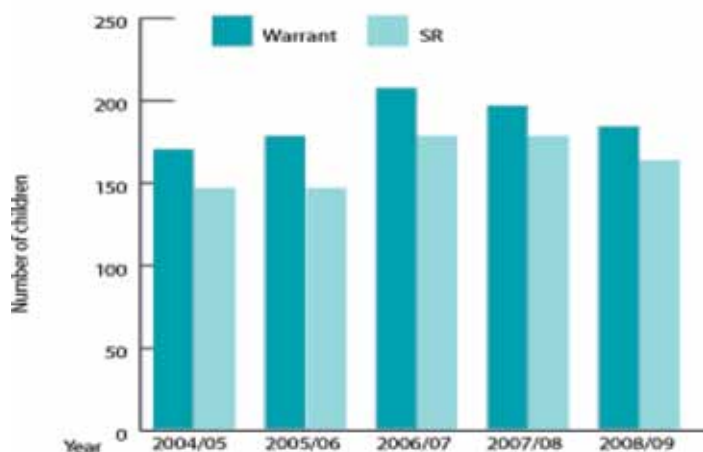
Children's Hearings can make Secure Authorisations as conditions of Supervision Requirements or Warrants if the child or young person:

- Is likely to injure him/herself or another person,
- Has previously absconded and is likely to do so again putting him/herself at risk.

The numbers of children with Secure Authorisations made by Children's Hearings has increased over the past five years:

Children	Increase
made subject to Place of Safety Warrants	8%
made subject to Child Protection Orders	11%

Children with secure authorisations



The Children's Hearing can authorise the placing of the child in secure accommodation, but it is the responsibility of the local authority and the person in charge of the secure accommodation to implement the Hearing's decision. The local authority will decide when the child will actually move to the secure facility.

Children and young people placed in secure care

SCRA research in 2009/10 found that about a quarter of children and young people made subject to Secure Authorisations are not placed in secure care.

There are seven secure units in Scotland offering 118 places. In 2007/08, the average numbers of residents in secure care was 102. The numbers of children and young people in secure care has been broadly the same since 1999/2000.

About 70% of children and young people in secure care are male. 11% of children are 13 years old or under and 24% are 16 years or over. 77% of children in secure care have at least one known disability, and of these, 95% have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and 15% mental health problems.

