



**Children & Young People's
Mental Health Coalition**

NAYJ
Justice for Children in Trouble
www.thenayj.org.uk

Press release 30.10.14

Children still at risk from restraint practices

The National Association for Youth Justice and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition remain concerned that detained children are still at unnecessary risk of injury, both physically and mentally, from restraint. The report published today by the Ministry of Justice reviews the new system of restraint put in place in Young Offender Institutions and Secure Training Centres following the deaths of Gareth Myatt and Adam Rickwood. While the new system is an improvement, it is particularly unacceptable that un-evidenced restraint methods including head holds and the deliberate infliction of pain are still allowed.

Pam Hibbert, Chair of Trustees for NAYJ said *'We must be sure that any physical force used on children is based on robust evidence of its safety and efficacy. Sadly this does not seem to be the case in relation to the head holds and deliberate use of pain. We have to ask if it would be acceptable in any other setting for children to be deliberately hurt in order to make them compliant'*.

Professor Dame Sue Bailey, Chair of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition said *'these are very vulnerable and damaged young people, and we need to ensure that they are treated in a way that is safe, in terms of both their physical and mental health'*.

Notes for editors

1. The Ministry of Justice publication of the report *'Implementation of the Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint System in Secure Training Centres and Young Offender Institutions'* 30th October 2014.
2. For further details of the two organisations please see www.thenayj.org.uk and www.cypmhc.org.uk
3. For any further information please contact either: Pam Hibbert 07957 575480, or Paula Lavis 020 7803 1117

