

P&C COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Children's Commissioning CCC & PCC
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KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

Children in Care –

Continuing to liaise closely with strategic providers to review business continuity issues, future vacancy information, placement stability and general concerns and issues.

Access to Resources [ART]

Continuing difficulty in managing to source placements for children and young people in both the internal and external market. This trend may worsen however ART continue to successfully source placements. This is being achieved in no small part by the strong relationships that the team have developed with a number of providers. There are a number of 'live' complex cases currently too which adds to the pressure.

There have been no placement breakdowns in CCC or PCC that are Covid -19 related in the last week. The two young people involved in placement breakdowns last week now have new placements.

The Youth Justice Board are proceeding with early releases and those with a release date have already for an identified placement despite capacity issues.

Supported accommodation providers have confirmed availability of vacancies, which may support any provider failure incidences across the board. Fortnightly meetings with strategic supported accommodation providers continue.

SEND

Out of School Tuition

Monitoring arrangements have been widened to include the main three providers, and to encompass additional detail about timetable hours for each provider against delivered hours. Providers are continuing to support families and signpost to additional support mechanisms, e.g for Free School Meals and Hubs.

Changes to SEND Requirements during COVID-19

Central Government have recently introduced measures for Local Authorities (LAs) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in relation to their respective duties to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Jointly Commissioned Services

Consideration needs to be given by the LA's and CCG as to what should be made in light legislative amendments. This needs to encompass alternative ways of working, and likely an increase need for certain therapeutic services based on the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 within the recovery phase.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan has been approved by all stakeholders, a communication has gone to parents and outcomes continue to be tracked.

Children with Disabilities [CWD]

Action for Children (AFC)- Cambridgeshire

Continues to function across the 3 homes with reduced capacity (1 at London Rd , 2 at Haviland Way and 2

at Woodland Lodge). Reduced capacity ensures homes can isolate and maintain staffing levels. There is capacity within AFC to comfortably respond to failure of another Provider or crisis intervention.

Recovery discussions are planned for 15/5/20 and 20/5/20 with Operations and AFC to progress a Recovery Plan. Government update on 10/5/20 will inform planning along with Infection Control advice.

AFC has a good supply of PPE and continue to offer financial/activity pack support to parents known to them and they have spent £10k thus far in Cambridgeshire. This is through AFC charity

Domiciliary Care

There is capacity in the system due to reduction or refusal of packages. This is being quantified to ensure the capacity is effectively utilised across the system. Contracts continue to be paid in full.

Activity / Community Short Breaks-

There is one Provider continuing to offer virtual activities. All other clubs are suspended. Planning for future clubs through in house services is complete but no decisions made on whether to progress.

Insourcing of CCC Residential Children's homes

Remains on track to come under CCC 3/9/20. Primary responsibility is sitting with Operational Heads of Service, supported by Transformation. Contract management and quality assurance of the incumbent provider is still being managed by Commissioning.

The Children and Young People End of Life and Crisis Intervention Pathway has been finalised and will be ratified with Assistant Directors w/c 11 May 2020.

The Emergency Residential Provision/Alternative Provision work stream is ongoing; it is anticipated that any agreed mobilisation will be in 2/3 weeks. Discussions continue regarding staffing, training, equipment. Business cases for additional funding being facilitated through Children's Social Care.

Children and Families

Voluntary sector mental health providers for children and young people are preparing for a surge of new mental health referrals as the pandemic eases. As a result, Fullscope (consortium of voluntary sector mental health providers) is bringing agencies and other providers together to look at system-wide helplines offering a listening ear and safety planning.

The majority of services are being delivered through telephone, video links and social media platforms.

In response to issues around parents still turning up at the children' centre buildings for support, the providers in Peterborough are developing strategies on how facilities can be safely opened during the recovery period.

A group has now met, including Early Help, Commissioning, and Provider representation to consider framing messages to families about their children returning to school, as well as looking at what services may be required to support parents in getting their children back to school.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

Children in Care –

Fee increase requests are starting to come through, which may result in cost pressures. These are being considered via the business continuity panel. Scoping underway to inform the potential financial impact of any uplift requests across CCC & PCC's Children in Care cohort in line with business cases submitted that indicate likely impact on placement budgets.

ART

The continuation of foster carers self-isolating or not taking placements is further reducing market capacity and exacerbating pressure on in-house to place; however, offers are still forthcoming this is due to the positive, open relationships that have been developed over the last two years with placement providers.

Children and Families

The scale of the economic impact of Covid on families that have lost income or been furloughed is starting to emerge: There has been a 10 fold increase in Universal Credit Claims in Cambridgeshire. Foodbanks report seeing a 70% increase in demand. Money advice support services are reporting increase in demand and are adding them to waiting lists.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

There are no Staff off sick and all staff are working from home

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

ISEPS

No increased costs or reductions this week due to Covid-19. A number of providers have requested fee uplifts due to the impact of Covid 19.

ART

PCC have incurred additional costs due to an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young person who was accommodated post 18, as per guidelines. CCC have incurred additional costs for a young person remaining in their supported accommodation placement post 18, as per guidelines. All costs captured on Covid Costs Tracker.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

Work has begun on formalising a recovery / resilience plan for all commissioned services. This will likely focus on key pressures within service areas; availability of quality placements and provision for children and young people, and mechanisms to be employed to increase access to suitable provision options. The Business Continuity Panel will remain in situ in order to track and progress recovery planning.

COMMUNICATIONS

FAQs continue to be distributed weekly to external providers and the incident report log is distributed daily to senior management. A letter has been drafted to Providers to include an acknowledgement of the dedication, resilience and continued support our carers, support workers, teaching and care staff have demonstrated in recent weeks within their key roles supporting and caring for our children and young people.