

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREAS:	Commissioning
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NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

Test and Trace - has been implemented more widely and upon discussions with providers through contract management meetings and provider forums. Some providers are content with the new system for the moment, whilst there are others that share concerns about the issues this system may create around staffing levels, particularly if a number of staff are off at the same time. What is clear at this moment, is that it's very hard to predict what this will look like until we have outbreaks that need to be managed.

Infection Control Fund – The first instalment of payments to providers of the 75% element of the infection control fund commenced processing this week. In line with the national guidance, the 25% element has been established as an assistance fund for wider domiciliary care provision, which can be applied for on a case by case basis.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

There continues to be requests from some direct payment recipients for PPE. These clients have concerns about accessing their own supplies due to the lesser volumes they require and the suppliers selling in bulk and the inflated costs.

Virtual contract monitoring will start to take place over the next period, for providers who have seen an outbreak of C-19. This will be done in conjunction with planned Social worker visits.

Following lengthy discussion around the value of the weekly homecare forums, we have decided to move the homecare forums to bi-weekly from next week. This gives providers and ourselves opportunity to raise specific queries or concerns ahead of those meetings and gives the opportunity for us to be well positioned with a response. Furthermore this will enable us to address those concerns where appropriate with a presentation or a speaker for the calls to add more purpose and context.

We are undertaking due-diligence checks for a number of providers that have been appointed from the previous and last round of the homecare DPS opening – this may open up more capacity.

Demand modelling undertaken by Business Intelligence to inform bed capacity which is informing the approach to commissioning ongoing block bed capacity. Utilisation of the covid block beds has been high, but is starting to plateau.

Current Care Home Outbreaks have decreased significantly.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

Routine contract review meetings have started this week with some providers. These meetings are firstly looking at how services have continued during C-19, plans for establishing business as usual activity and reporting/monitoring going forward.

LDP and Commissioning, with support from LD Brokerage, are completing extensive piece of work to oversee a managed reopening of LD Day services.

Care Home Support action plan has been developed to monitor progress of the implementation of local actions. This is being monitored and overseen by the weekly multi-disciplinary Out of Hospital Cell meeting.

We are working with CCG and health partners to develop the out of hospital/community resilience and recovery response plan to inform the required NHS England return.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Active Contract Management is now being undertaken beginning with the most high profile contracts (Block Provision) and further meetings with providers have been undertaken (5 in total with 3 further meeting next week).

Work has commenced to decommission Barber Gardens as a temporary service and to make it available for permanent placements from 01 July 2020. Commissioners have a list of 25 nominations from the LDP, the PD Team, CPFT and the CCG. They will be meeting on Friday to prioritise.

The 10% resilience fund payment to providers will not continue past the end of June 2020 and communications will be sent to providers next week to inform them of this decision. There is alternative financial support available through the Infection Control Fund to providers.

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

The local authorities submitted the latest MHCLG return this week, which continues to highlight a shortfall in funding to meet the continued costs of COVID to the councils. This includes a significant impact on delivery of savings plans as a result of COVID.

The first phase of Infection Control Funding payments to providers has been processed this week for all providers who have returned signed confirmations and meet the national conditions. 66% in Cambridgeshire and 86% in Peterborough have been paid to date. We continue to follow up with providers who have not yet responded.

The 10% resilience fund payment to providers will not continue past the end of June 2020 and communications will be sent to providers next week to inform them of this decision. There is alternative financial support available through the Infection Control Fund to providers.

Business Case has been submitted to the CCG to extend the four emergency LD beds at The Manor until September 2020. We are awaiting a decision on this currently.

WORKFORCE CHANGES

Test and Trace could have a bearing on staffing levels as mentioned above.

There has been feedback from providers that they are experiencing an upturn in recruitment, which has resulted in some additional capacity. However, the caveat is that some of that upturn is a result of furloughed staff and staff that have been released from other sectors which are not currently able to provide staff with work.

LD Brokerage service was established during Covid19 to support LDP with sourcing and funding additional support, by bringing together staff from multiple teams (Contracts, Brokerage, LDP, Commissioning). Transition planning is underway to ensure service is sustainable under BAU.

Commissioning currently has 15 staff absent due to Covid-19:

- Self-isolating due to symptoms: 0
- Self-isolating due to family member having symptoms but working from home: 0
- Social Distancing due to underlying medical condition but working from home: 15

COMMUNICATIONS

The newsletter had continued to be distributed on a x3 week basis. This will continue for the foreseeable future.

Communications are being drafted to providers in relation to the 10% resilience payment stopping at the end of March 2020. These will hopefully distributed next week.