

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

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| SERVICE AREAS: | Children's Commissioning CCC & PCC |
| REPORT AUTHOR: | Helene Carr – Head of Service |
| REPORTING PERIOD: | 15/06/2020 – 19/06/2020 |

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

We have been sharing updates on Public Health Guidance relating to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and our process for requesting Emergency PPE through our Local Resilience Forum (LFR) where required.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

SEND:

Out of School Tuition has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Provision migrated from Face to Face delivery to online provision the week commencing 16th March, with aspects of additional support where required. Where children and young people have not been able to fully access the curriculum in this manner, providers have undertaken alternative arrangements.

As part of our contingency planning we have requested updated Business Continuity Plans from providers, in light of what is now known about COVID-19, and within the context of the guidance on IPC and PPE, and where required update this and return it to us for our records. This information is vital to aiding our recovery planning process, and will help us to determine what 'alternative arrangements' can be put in place.

Finally, we have been tracking provision throughout COVID-19, to enable us to quickly identify those students who are perhaps struggling to engage with provision, and to ascertain whether additional support is required. This process has been developed organically with some providers, and has been incredibly insightful. This process has now been extended to all DPS tuition providers.

CWD:

Residential Short Breaks

CCC –Woodland Lodge has increased in capacity to 3 overnights +emergency bed

Domiciliary Care & Community Support Services

- CCC Average Delivery last week 91% in house and 84% external providers (Direct Payments 100% payments made, delivery unknown)
- PCC Average Delivery last week 81% (Direct Payments 65%)

Activity Short Breaks/Community Short Breaks

- CCC has met with 1 Provider to explore recovery.
- CCC Camplay revised offer through not delivering face to face summer play schemes. The alternative offer will be 9 hrs 1-1 support to be either delivered through Camplay staff or direct payment worker.
- Circles Network have launched their new venue; this is a key part of Recovery Planning and will enable them to continue with Covid-19 specific support and BAU services.

Insourcing of CCC Residential Children's homes

FAQ post Virtual consultation sent out.

CIC:

Activity

Monthly engagement with some providers has taken place. Providers are reporting that their foster carer capacity is beginning to increase following the easing of government restrictions. Risk Assessments for all potential matches are being completed and signed off by Directors.

C & F:

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS)

Universal Credit registrations published this week shows a disproportionately high number of claims in Cambridgeshire, up 105% (Huntingdonshire saw the largest increase with Cambridge and Ely seeing more than double the number of UC claims). This is four times as many people than we anticipated and forecast would be contacting CLAS for help. Modelling and vulnerability index analysis confirms the additional profile of clients in hardship and approaching CLAS for help. The 'rising prosperity' families of 25 to 44 year olds, privately renting and who have never accessed welfare support before are now struggling to make ends meet. Once the moratorium is lifted, they could also be facing evictions. We are using this analysis to project forward the scale of need and liaise with a range of people/organisations to incite discussion, action and join up how we can prepare and support families. One of the challenges is the lack of infrastructure in Cambridgeshire as historically unemployment and UC claims have been low. For example, Money Advice Support services are full and unable to take on new clients. Yet employability support as well as help with fuel and food would enable people to remain resilient and prevent mental and emotional health crisis, family breakdown etc associated with long term hardship.

Hard to Return to School

There is some anecdotal evidence from Pinpoint Parent Carer Forum, Chums mental health services and Young Carer services of children and young people who are 'hard to return to school'. These are the children where being in lock down and at home has alleviated their anxieties about being at school or as young carers are no longer worrying about their parent/sibling while they are at school. This appears to apply to primary and secondary school aged children. Quantifying this emerging group and how to support them in the transition back to school is being explored.

ART:

Activity

- There have been no Covid-19 related placement breakdowns this week in CCC or PCC.
- ART (CiC) have been working on a couple of placement breakdowns this week, however these are not relating to COVID-19.
- The ISEPS Team are currently working on 103 consultations; whilst placements are being offered, access is Covid-19 dependent. The majority of these cases have packages of tuition/alternative provision in place.

Challenges

- The theme of foster carers self-isolating or not taking placements continues to be a challenge. ART are able to identify placements in the majority of cases.
- Some residential providers have advised that due to the delay in Ofsted Registrations, this has not allowed them to open new homes within the time frame they had planned.
- It has become increasingly challenging to identify placements in residential children's homes. This has been compounded with the searches that we have been working on for some very complex young people where matching is difficult and specific support is requested.
- Although some schools have opened to a wider number of pupils, ISEPs is aware that some children remain at home with their families. ISEPs will continue to share attendance data with social teams to ensure risk assessments are in place for those who remain home and is safe to do so.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

Draft recovery plan submitted by all 4 specialist areas.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

none

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

CWD:

- CCC /PCC - Additional support packages to families where children are not in education.

CIC:

Two financial requests have been submitted by providers in relation to costs incurred due to COVID-19. Further information from providers has been requested and will be collated to present to the Business Continuity Panel for consideration. Where requests are generic, further information as to how these additional costs relate to the individual CYP in placement are being requested.

ART:

There has been no Covid -19 related costs incurred or reductions this week.

WORKFORCE CHANGES

One CiC Commissioner has resigned and left the service.

COMMUNICATIONS

SEND:

We recognise that many organisations have undertaken huge changes in order to be able to continue functioning during COVID-19. This may have involved some changes to how we work. We have asked providers to feed back what they feel has worked well, what has not worked well, in relation to their service as well as our relationship with them.

CWD:

- AFC and CCC have written to families to update on current position re service delivery.
- PCC liaised with all Domiciliary Care agencies; to be incorporated into Recovery Plan
- Circles Network have written to families regarding provision going forward.
- Cherry Lodge is also in communication with families as they look to increase the number of CYP being supported.