

P&C COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

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

Children in Care –

Engagement with Police, Youth Offending Service (YOS), Social Care & Commissioning to consider support offer to providers where Children and young people are breaching social distancing requirements. Agreed that Police colleagues will target engagement with those providers / locations where the Authorities know there to be issues.

Access to Resources [ART]

Increasing difficulty in managing to source placements for children and young people in both the internal and external market. This trend is likely to continue and worsen. The difficulties at present are being exacerbated by there being a number of 'live' complex placement searches.

There have been placement breakdowns in both PCC and CCC however, none are Covid -19 related.

As per previous highlight report the Youth Justice Board (YJB) are progressing those young people with an early release date from custodial centres. Peterborough ART (PCC) have received two referrals and Cambridgeshire ART (CCC) have received one referral

Likewise the Criminal Justice Board continue to look at releasing women with babies/pregnant and in prison.

- **Pains Mill Foyer** Last week they were reported not to be accepting referrals, however this week they are now accepting referrals for review to match for vacancies.
- **Peterborough City Council (PCC) Foyer** Currently not accepting new request for accommodation, due to risk of infection.
- **YMCA** Reduced capacity as young people who were due to move into shared provisions within the YMCA, are currently unable to do so due to Covid-19.

Alliance Care [IFA]– is still unable to provide placements, thus reducing market capacity. This is the third week for Alliance Care.

The Independent Special Education Provisions [ISEPS] ART team is working on 124 consultations (127 last week) sent to various school provisions. This is based on 84 children and young people (85 last week) requiring a non-maintained school placement.

Continue to track attendance in Independent Non Maintained Special Schools, keeping SEND and Social Care Teams advised to inform risk assessments.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities [SEND]

Joint Commissioning Functions During COVID-19 – a paper has been requested from Children's Community Services [CCS] and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust [CPFT] on what services continue to be delivered and how, including which services have been re-deployed back into front line NHS services. Services include Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT), Occupational Therapy (OT) and

Physiotherapy (PT). The service provision is published¹ however both Council's want to ensure we are able to attribute cost of reduced services and ensure these deficits are appropriately funded as a Covid19 cost.

NRS Healthcare, providers of our Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES) are drafting a protocol to allow children and young people to take equipment at school to their home for periods where due to COVID-19, they will not be at school. The process will encompass safe usage of equipment, and that families understand any maintenance requirement

Children with Disabilities [CWD]

All ongoing incidents reported on Incident Log. Previous Incident Alerts all RAG rated to reflect progress. No new incidents.

Commissioners are ascertaining Covid-19 arrangements for Direct Payments workers e.g. Furloughing - and ensuring these are communicated to families via the Local Offer.

Action for Children (AFC) provider of overnight short breaks in CCC continues to function across the 3 Cambridgeshire homes with reduced capacity [circa 50%] with emergency bed provision available. It has been noted that AFC have worked extremely hard throughout this process.

Insourcing of Residential Children's homes-remains on track to come under CCC 3/9/20 and mobilisation plans have been re-drafted to include key milestones

An End of Life and Crisis Intervention Pathway is being drafted to ensure sufficient provision and robust pathways for End of Life, as well as responding to family breakdown and exhaustion. This is likely to include the existing overnight and residential short break capacity for those already known to the service [for crisis intervention] and EACH Hospice for End of Life support that cannot be provided in the community and crisis intervention where there is a clinical need of the child.

Children and Families

Appropriate Adult Services: Protective measures are now in place at Thorpe Wood Police Station and Kings Lynn PIC which means face to face Appropriate Adult services can resume at these stations. Appropriate Adult Support at Parkside police station will remain by telephone call only. The service is fully staffed and operational.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing:

- The Covid 19 outbreak has shown the willingness of children (and adult) mental health providers to work together through the **System Partners Meeting**. This group meets fortnightly with a psychiatrist to share experiences and discuss risks.
- Referrals into Chums are **down** 85 – 90% since schools closed. Chums 'duty line' only receiving 1 call a day over last weeks of lockdown. 5 Chums clinicians have increased number of virtual face to face counselling and are working through the 700 young people on the waiting list (approx. 50 young people per week). The mental health resilience group video should be available to send to young people next week for young people to view, however accessibility of this requires further work to ensure as uncomplicated as possible.

Childrens Centres:

Buildings: In Peterborough three centres remain open for use by midwifery services:- North area – clinics are held at Honeyhill, South area – clinic are held at Orton, Central and East area- clinics are being held at First Steps Children's Centre.

¹ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0145-COVID-19-prioritisation-within-community-health-services-1-April-2020.pdf>

In Cambridgeshire, midwifery clinics are held at Chatteris and March in South Fenland. Health visiting are also using the facilities in the South and North of Peterborough as well as March and Chatteris in South Fenland. This is for urgent appointments that require a face to face meetings.

Staffing: Currently all of the children's centre/child and family staff are working from home. All children's centres are continuing to deliver family support/targeted support. Figures are as follows:

- Central and East Peterborough – 70% of existing caseload
- North and South Peterborough areas – current caseload is 67 families, with 4 on waiting list for support.
- South Fenland - The team have 41 current cases and are supporting the majority of those parents via phone and social media.

Community Hub Links

In Peterborough procedures have been set up for referring any family support requests from Early Help to the children's centres, for families with children up to 11 years. This has been quiet this week with no referrals received

Evidence Based Parenting Programmes

Face to face parenting programmes are now suspended. Any new requests for parenting support, will be fielded via Early Help to the Parenting staff employed by Barnardos, to continue to provide support.

Contracts and ongoing commissioning

Due to the current position we are looking to extend a number of contracts which are nearing the end of their contractual period. These are:

- Peterborough Children's Centres and South Fenland Child and Family Centres [tender currently live and extended in response to providers' ability to produce tender bids at this time] x 12 week.
- CPSL MIND peri natal mental health support x 6 months
- Romsey Mill Young Parents Contract + 3months to December 2020

Other:

Accommodation: Scoping paper drafted in preparation for any emerging need for increased and/or emergency provision for both Children in Care or Children with Disabilities / Complex Needs. This includes a mobilisation timeline, action log and cost /resource requirements.

Provisions being scoped include repurposing outdoor education centres (i.e. Grafham Water, Burwell House, Stibbington Centre for Children in Care; and closed Children's Homes and boarding provision on school sites for Children with Disabilities.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): The Emergency PPE Request email template for providers, and process documents have been updated for Children's Services in line with the arrangements within the LRF (Local Resilience Forum) who are coordinating this provision. This has been adjusted to encompass a RAG rating for stock levels held by providers, and continues to be facilitated through the central PPE Email Address. Requests from providers of services for Children in Care (CiC), Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Children with Disabilities (CWD) and Children and Families (C&F) For Children's Services, are sent to duty mailboxes where they are verified and sent onto the PPE service.

Incident report dashboard is being developed, with a view to enabling detailed analysis of provider & placement continuity risks.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

Children in Care –

Independent Fostering Agencies are reporting that other Local Authorities are opting to fund retained placement. This will impact the availability of appropriate placements both Council's.

There is an increasing trend for placements to be under threat of breaking down due to children leaving placement several times a day [3 placements this week].

CWD / SEND – no new risks

Access to Resources [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. Commissioning are managing strategic providers and have a 'feed' of available resource/placements.

Foyer Provision [CCC&PCC) – There is reduced capacity within these resources to take new placements. The lack of capacity will have a financial impact as young people are now unable to move from higher cost resources, as per care plan.

Children and Families

Chums are risk assessing all 1 to 1 cases. Young people who do not want to engage virtually over the phone/Teams but do want Chums services after the lockdown are being discharged on to a second waiting list for contact post lockdown. Commissioners are working with system providers to ensure these cases are being discussed at the Single Point of Access in CPFT in order to manage risk.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

There are currently no staff off sick. The entire commissioning function is now working from home.

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

ISEPS: negotiated a reduction in costs [and backdated] for one placement as the young person is unable to return to placement. A virtual outreach package of education and therapeutic support is being finalised.

ART: There were no placement breakdowns and no additional costs or reduced costs this week due to Covid 19.

Provider Viability The Business Continuity Viability Panel has been restructured with first half reviewed submissions and the second have considered payments verses actuals delivered. This will be reported weekly and help inform decision making in terms of continuation of 100% funding or reductions.

COMMUNICATIONS

FAQs continue to be distributed weekly to external providers.
Incident report log is distributed daily to senior management.