

P&C COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Children's Commissioning CCC & PCC
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REPORTING PERIOD:	22/5/20 to 29/5/20

KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

Children in Care –

Close liaison with strategic providers continues to review business continuity issues, future vacancy information, placement stability and general concerns and issues.

CCC CYP Committee have recommended the use of Grafham Water as Emergency/Alternative Provision for CIC. This is not yet considered necessary for the CWD cohort.

Access to Resources [ART]

Feedback from some providers indicates that there is reduced vacancies due to some carers isolating and delayed move on plans however we do continue to successfully be able to identify matched placements. Whilst this can present some pressure on market capacity and in-house fostering there still remains some capacity.

ART in PCC and CCC report that there has not been an increase in referrals this week, which is consistent with BAU at this time.

Placement breakdowns Covid 19 related: One CCC placement breakdown, partly Covid -19 related. ART are working with the provider to support and stabilise this placement. None reported for PCC.

ISEPS continue to process PPE requests and have commenced sending communication briefings from the Education Service Director to all Heads of Independent Special School provisions.

SEND

Supporting Children and Young People with SEND as Schools and Colleges prepare for wider opening. Further guidance was published on 26/05/2020 on supporting children and young people with SEND as schools and colleges prepare for wider opening and Commissioning are working with Operations to put this guidance into practice.

Children with Disabilities [CWD]

Residential Short Breaks

Action for Children and Cherry Lodge Residential short breaks continue to operate at reduced capacity and recovery planning activity remains ongoing, in response to latest guidance.

Insourcing of CCC Residential Children's homes Remains on track to come under CCC 3/9/20.

Domiciliary Care & Community Support Services

Continue to manage the needs across external and internal providers and all Providers report on a weekly basis. There is some capacity across PCC and CCC; this is being quantified to ensure the capacity is effectively and appropriately utilised across the system.

Activity Short Breaks/Community Short Breaks

PCC - Circles Network - A key part of their Recovery Plan proposals includes the renting of an additional venue; the Business Continuity Panel has approved the proposal and the provider has been notified. Expanding the provision will commence 02.06.2020.

Children and Families

CCC Pinpoint Parent Carer forum supports families with children with additional needs and disabilities have found replacing workshops with webinars, using live Facebook sessions and 'hangouts' is proving very popular and building a YouTube library of video resources and 'tune in' events for parents.

Work on the implementation of the Best Start in Life Strategy (BSiL) has resumed. A number of pieces of work have been identified, including recognition that the majority of services have had to deliver services differently during COVID-19. Many of the changes have provided innovative ways of delivering services, which we may wish to continue following relaxation of the lockdown.

A suite of guidelines is being developed which are targeted at parents of children and parents of teenagers, to provide helpful tips for parents to support children and young people back to school. The plan is to release each suite of support messages over a 6 week rolling programme.

Positive feedback has been received from families –

"A, was super happy that this came today! Thank you - he is missing everyone"

"Can you say thank you to the team for the miss you postcard to E It was a lovely idea and E said "ah how lovely".

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

Children in Care –

Fee increase requests continue to be considered via the business continuity panel.

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, however ART are liaising regularly with these providers in terms of upcoming referrals and timelines of their home opening.

Children and Families

Cambridge food banks have seen a significant drop in the number of people using food banks over the last 3 to 4 weeks. This seems to coincide with the District Hubs supporting more shielded and vulnerable people and there is a question about managing the transition as Hubs start to wind down so that Food banks aren't burdened with an influx of families used to receiving regular food parcels.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

There has been one additional cost in CCC that was incurred, partially due to Covid- 19 and an increase in placement fee to support the carer manage behaviours partially due to changes in routine and structure.

There has been a further request to continue with a 52 week placement past the half term holiday – this is currently being reviewed for further agreement.

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) has been awarded a £15,000 grant to support digitally excluded families across the county.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

Work continues on formalising a recovery / resilience plan for all commissioned services. This will likely focus on key pressures within service areas; availability of quality placements for children and young people, and mechanisms to be employed to increase access to suitable placement options.

The Business Continuity Panel will remain in situ in order to track and progress recovery planning.

COMMUNICATIONS

ART & Commissioning continue fortnightly meeting with key strategic Provider, particularly supported accommodation providers & Independent Fostering Agencies.

Children's Commissioning are supporting PCC Procurement in regards to ensuring that communications with PCC's 'top spend' providers is being managed consistently.

FAQs continue to be distributed weekly to external providers and the incident report log is distributed daily to senior management.

Children's Commissioning have developed a dashboard providing an overview of incidents reported.