

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREAS:	Children's Commissioning – Peterborough City Council (PCC) & Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)
REPORT AUTHOR:	Helene Carr – Head of Service
REPORTING PERIOD:	03.06.2020 – 16.06.2020

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

CWD:

Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from Covid-19. From 1 August, the government will pause shielding unless the transmission of COVID-19 in the community starts to rise significantly.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

CIC:

The new guidance (as above) in respect of shielding being paused from 01/08/2020, this could have a positive impact on the available number of placements for young people, as there are a number of internal and external foster carers who have been shielding. In the external market, some providers have shared that they are completing risk assessments to enable shielding carers to return to fostering.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

SEND:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Throughout COVID-19 to date we have made available a provision of 'emergency' PPE to commissioned services and direct payment workers throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by means of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) PPE Hub. As supplies of PPE have become more readily available, the LRF Hub will close from 31/07/2020, and organisations should return to sourcing their required PPE through their usual supplier and wholesale routes. If the situation changes the LRF are able to mobilise the hub at short notice.

CWD:

Discussions regarding CYP returning to school in September and support likely to be required.

C & F:

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) continues to see the economic effects on families and people of Covid 19 outbreaks. The volume of hardship cases is proving challenging for not only CLAS but for money advice support services and small local charities who are working with CLAS to pool their resources and efforts. CLAS has supported the same number of families with supermarket food voucher during April, May and June this year as it did for the whole of 2019 (214). 24% of this demand occurred in June. This mirrors the 105% rise in Universal Credit claimants in Cambridgeshire. It is four times as many people than forecasted would be contacting CLAS for help. Additional funding has been made available to support the work of CLAS.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

SEND:

CCC & PCC have surveyed families who have children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) under the modification notice on the Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA). The purpose is to engage where specified provision has been adversely affected during COVID-19, and to establish what 'alternative arrangements' can be provided as 'reasonable endeavours' by the Local Authority (LA) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Commissioning have requested any pertinent information present within the analysis be shared to inform business recovery planning. Additionally, we have requested feedback from the Special Schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough relating to their view on this matter from the respective leads in education. We are working with colleagues in the commercial service to review

provision of Out of School Tuition (OoS) during COVID-19, and to ascertain what elements can form part of a service offer for Autumn term, along with elements of Face to Face and Online delivery.

Progressing with recovery planning for Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) provision, Integrated Community Equipment Service contract (ICES) and Out of School Tuition (OoS). We are exploring options within other commissioned services to make use of underutilised resources as part of the business recovery mobilisation.

We intend to collate feedback from stakeholders, to identify the best manner to meet needs arising directly or indirectly as a result of COVID-19 within the next year for SaLT, ICES and OoS. We are appreciative that families have been under increased pressure during COVID-19, and while their input into our planning process is vital, the current timing (approaching the school holidays) is traditionally unfavourable for coproduction. Therefore we intend to use this time period to clarify the needs under these service areas, and agree an approach with the respective stakeholders for next steps following the summer holidays.

CWD:

Dom Care /Direct Payment Recovery Plans impacted by revised shielding guidance. Commissioning working alongside Social Care colleagues to implement plans in this area. Meetings scheduled with 0-25 Heads of Service & Teams Managers in CCC and PCC - 16.07.2020 & 27.07.2020.

CIC:

Progressing recovery plans, focusing on engagement with strategic providers to support the identification of placements and access to the market if there is an increase in referrals in the coming weeks.

C & F

Recovery plan has been revisited and updated.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

CWD:

Due to Covid-19, the decision has been taken to not consult with parent carers at the time – for the CWD Sufficiency Strategy work.

C & F:

No COVID decisions made since previous report

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

CWD:

PCC Business Case submitted for extra Covid-19 funding (£195k), in light of the increasing number of Covid-19 related requests for support from families:

Dom Care: £166,800

Short Breaks (One to One): £46,250

High Level Family Support: £8,250

CIC:

Two requests received from providers relation to business continuity funding – to be heard at Business Continuity Panel week commencing 20/07/2020

WORKFORCE CHANGES

N/A

COMMUNICATIONS

CWD:

Ongoing communications with all Short Break Providers, risks assessed on ongoing basis to ensure capacity increases incrementally over time in anticipation of Summer period.

C & F:

Messages for Parents – “Keeping on Track” - The first two of a series of seven key messages has now been released for families. Branded by the tag “Keeping on Track”, the campaign centres on seven key themes - mental health, sleep and use of IT, behaviours, health lifestyles, and transport. Each theme will offer gentle hints and tips on how to address the issue, with signposting to trusted websites, resources or contacts. It is the intention to focus on a specific set of messages in August to support children and parents before the return to school in September. The set of themed graphics will be circulated to partners each week, and shared on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Facebook and Twitter pages. We are asking for partners to share these with families through their own networks. The first theme focused on mental health and wellbeing.