

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT REPORT – COVID-19 AND KEY SERVICE UPDATES

SERVICE AREAS:	Commissioning
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Part 1 - COVID-19

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

Adults Commissioning

Mass Vaccinations

The Covid-19 Vaccination Programme is now well underway in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with priority cohorts 1-4 currently being vaccinated in line with the national mandate.

Provision to frontline health and social care workers commenced early January, with vaccinations being offered across a variety of settings, including hospital hubs, GP clinics and mass vaccination centres. We have worked closely with the CCG to ensure access to frontline social care workers in line with the national JCVI Greenbook definition

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955548/Greenbook_chapter_14a_v6.pdf) and published Standard Operating Procedure

(https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/01/C1037-COVID-vacc-deployment-SOP_community-based-care-workers-14-January-2021.pdf)

Mass Vaccination sites started to open across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on the 25th January, with additional sites coming online in the coming weeks. All Primary Care Networks have also now been established as vaccination sites.

National Funding

- **Rapid Testing Fund** – £149m of national funding was recently announced to support the provision of additional capacity for Lateral Flow Testing across care homes. Local allocations amount to £1.5m for CCC and £436k for PCC until the end of March 2021. 80% of the allocation must be passported to care homes on a per bed allocation basis, with local authority discretion on spend for the remaining 20%. Pending governance approvals, we are proposing the utilisation of this 20% to be used to support lateral flow testing costs in supported living, extra care and day opportunity settings.
- **Workforce Capacity Grant Fund** – national funding has been allocated to support local authorities to deliver measures to supplement and strengthen adult social care staff capacity to ensure that safe and continuous care is achieved. The level of allocations are £1.16m for CCC and £377k for PCC until the end of March 2021. The grant will be paid in 2 instalments, 1 in early February and the second in March 2021, the second being dependent on a return plan on spend being submitted to DHSC by Friday 12th February 2021. Areas of spend are currently being identified in conjunction with finance and operational management colleagues.

Children's Commissioning

Children in care Commissioning

Ofsted guidance -

- From January, the Government will resume focused visits to local authority children's services.
- There could be urgent monitoring visits to social care providers.
- The Government continue to register social care providers and managers. They have made some [changes to the steps we take in completing the registration process](#).
- [Guidance has been updated](#) as to how to keep residential children's homes safe from Coronavirus.

SEND/CWD Commissioning

The Director of Education has sent out guidance to parents/carers on education arrangements during this current lockdown, this was sent to all Independent Special Educational Provisions and Out of School Tuition Providers for cascading to families.

The following guidance details the children classed as vulnerable and occupations categorised as Critical Workers. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

All schools are expected to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend. Parents or carers of vulnerable children and young people are strongly encouraged to take up the place if vulnerable children and young people do not attend, schools and colleges should:

-work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence, discussing their concerns using supporting guidance considering the child's circumstances and their best interests;

-work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) and other relevant partners to encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, particularly where the social worker agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate.

The following guidance describes the Government's stance on Short Break services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care#social-care-services-for-disabled-children-and-young-people>

The Access to Resources – Independent Special School Placements [ART ISEPs] Team has reinstated the ISEPs Attendance Status Updates spreadsheet to ascertain the current attendance of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough children and young people within Independent Special Education Provisions with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Providers have been advised to inform the Local Authority if there is a risk to business continuity and/or required to close temporarily.

Although it has been recognised that there are no formal easement requirements during the current National Lockdown, annex "Section M" for EHCPs are being sent to providers to record any modifications that are being agreed when placements are confirmed. An EHCP Taskforce remains in situ and attended by Commissioners to monitor impact and anticipate risk

Children & Families

The below link identifies key changes to previous guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care>

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Adults Commissioning

- **Addition Capacity to support the latest surge in COVID-19 Cases** – Commissioning issued a PIN to the market to identify additional capacity to support the needs of those who are covid positive, confirmed covid contact or covid negative. Some provision is already operational and we are currently working with the contracts team to develop contracts and mobilise the remaining provision. A significant amount of support has also been provided to Day Services who continue to deliver support and Housing Related Support providers.
- **Brokerage & Contracts** – the team continues to focus on managing providers with outbreaks, collaboratively with system partners. Infection control visits are being coordinated with the CCG for

homes who have not had a recent visit. As the acute hospitals are starting to see a decrease in covid and more red wards move to green, we are seeing a significant increase in bulk referrals to brokers, resulting in referral peaks into the service.

- **Outbreak Management** - Infection rates in care homes appear to be increasing in line with increased community transmission rates, with an increase seen over the Christmas and New Year period.

There is a collaborative approach to support homes with covid.

- Infection Control Fund - there have been 2 tranches of this national fund and a third tranche (Rapid Testing Fund) was recently announced and this is being distributed across providers to ensure the costs of infection control measures can be met including safe staffing levels, cohorting of staff, visiting arrangements, cleaning regimes and lateral flow testing (LFT). Care home providers would say this additional funding does not go anywhere near meeting their additional costs.
- Care Home Support Team - the LAs have established a Care Home Support Team consisting of 5 Social Workers and a Team Manager. This team will be in place for 2 years and the full team has been in place since the start of this month. A Public Health Consultant is focusing specifically on this sector and she is also being supported by an Infection Control Nurse Specialist.
- The Contracts and Brokerage Teams in the LA's have an ongoing relationship with adult social care providers and as well as being a key partner in the outbreak management process, have organised regular briefing sessions for providers about key issues and act as the main point of contact on a wide range of day-to-day issues, both business as usual and Covid related. The LA has move additional resources into this team to manage the increased workload.
- The CCG has invested in its Care Home Team and has more than doubled the team, which now includes a Care home Clinical Lead and 6 Care Home Nurses. In addition, the Infection Prevention and Control Team have also increased capacity to include a nurse specialist focussing specifically on care Homes.
- Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) model - the Assistant Director for Adults and Safeguarding has been commissioned by the CCG's Chief Nurse and LA Service Directors for Adults and Commissioning to lead an MDT approach to supporting care homes to develop quality and practice making sure we maximise the use of all the resources available and have a clear escalation process. This team is focussed on broader quality issues that may have been exacerbated by Covid and will continue beyond the pandemic.
- Care Homes Cell - this meeting is jointly chaired by the DASS and CCG Chief Nurse and meets weekly to assess risk, take stock of outbreaks and agree actions needed and the prioritisation process. This meeting will identify any broader actions that are needed such as formal representation to a provider and any providers to escalate to CQC. This meeting also undertook a survey of all providers after the last peak and identified any ways in which we could improve our support. The feedback was generally very positive and appreciative. A daily meeting is held 7 days a week currently, chaired by the LA Public Health consultant lead for care home outbreaks, in order to review risks across all settings, including risks to business continuity. This meeting has representation from adult social care, the CCG, the LA contracts team and IPC team as well as Public Health.
- Support for Care Home Managers – the Commissioning directorate has a regular provider forum where any issues or concerns can be covered and specialists in palliative care, infection control and vaccinations to give some examples are invited to speak to all providers and answer any questions.
- Mental Health Support for care home staff and managers - the CCG has led on this and put in place a range of options for care home staff and managers wishing to access mental health support in light of the pressures they are facing and the experiences they have had throughout the pandemic
- Vaccination: There has been a significant effort to vaccinate all residents in care home sector.

Children's Commissioning

Covid Incidents, Outbreaks & Surveillance

Incidents continue to be managed by Children's Commissioning with close liaison with providers to ensure the welfare of children and young people, and provider continuity continue to be prioritised. Children's Commissioning are liaising with Public Health and Public Health England colleagues where appropriate, as well as operational colleagues.

Children in Care

Access to Resources (ART) successfully identified a fostering placement for a child who has tested positive for covid-19 and required a period in Care whilst his parent accessed in-patient medical support. Access to Resources worked with the provider to ensure appropriate assessment and mitigation of risk, and indemnity. Pending the success of this (short term) placement, ART are exploring options to secure this foster carer in the future to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough young people testing positive for Covid.

SEND/CWD

Business Continuity Meetings scheduled with our Strategic Providers.

Appropriate contacts have been made in relation to testing, vaccines and government guidance on attendance.

Children and Families

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) received additional funding from the Winter Covid Grant. CLAS normally processes 24 awards a week for food vouchers. CLAS is currently processing 51 awards per day. 80% of these awards are to families with children.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Adults Commissioning

- **Placed Based Commissioning** – Work has been undertaken with local providers, Think Communities, Operations, District and Parish Councils and Contracts and Brokerage to scope a pilot for placed based commissioning of homecare as well as prevention and early intervention. Adults Committee and General Purposes Committee have approved the resource request and the recruitment process has commenced.
- **Discharge to Assess and Interim Bed Provision** – work to review provision commissioned and develop understand funding implication post the end of March 2021, is being undertaken in partnership with operational colleagues and wider system partners.
- **Brokerage & Contracts:** The contracts team is planning to reinstate contract management and monitoring of care home providers, domiciliary care contract management was reinstated in October. The purpose for reinstatement is around the request to visit homes and a concern that focussing purely on infection control without using the visit to review wider performance misses opportunities. Visits will consider a range of priorities, including outbreak management.

Children in Care

Children in Care Commissioning and Access to Resources have identified strategic providers and following the delivery of the Provider Forum (see communications) will be relaunching bi-weekly meetings with strategic providers to support the Local Authorities to access sufficient provision to meet the needs of our Children in Care.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Adults Commissioning

Additional capacity to support the recent surge in COVID 19 cases, as outlined above has been approved for funding by the CCG.

Children's Commissioning

SEND/CWD

The CWD, SEND and Complex Cases Huddle has been reinstated and The ART ISEPS team has set up weekly huddles with the Statutory Assessment Team.

Portfolios are being adjusted, along with work streams, generally and in line with Covid 19.

NEW COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Adults Commissioning:

- **Rapid Testing Funding received** – roll out of funding to care homes (80% of grant) is underway. Remaining 20%, exploring roll out to supported living, extra care and day opportunities pending governance approvals.
- **Workforce Capacity Fund Grant** - allocations have been received and we are finalising plans for spend in line with the grant.
- **21/22 Costs** – work is underway with finance to understand the implications of COVID and funding post the end of March 2021.

Children's Commissioning

- **SEND/CWD**- Additional spend is currently being evaluated
- **Children's and Family** - Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme have been awarded a Covid-19 Winter Assistance Grant of £176,971.

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Contracts & Brokerage

- Contract management resource to manage outbreaks and deal with priority BAU, complaints, uplifts and implementation of block bed contracts.

COMMUNICATIONS

Adults Commissioning

- **Mass Vaccinations**
 - Regular email communications have been sent to providers informing them of opportunities for vaccinations.
 - A selfie video was developed by Soham Lodge care home staff, talking about their experience of getting vaccinated. This formed the basis of a press release and has been promoted on social media and provider communications.
 - Established FAQs information on website, and promoted this via social media and provider communications (<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-vaccine-fags-for-health-and-social-care-workers/>)
 - A webinar aimed at our BAME care home staff was held on Wednesday 03 February where local community leaders and clinicians came together to answer queries and hopefully myth bust to encourage staff to access vaccination.
 - Internal newsletter articles on vaccination have been circulated.
- Compliment from a Housing Related Support Provider to commissioning:
"You have given us great guidance over the last 9 months, informative and knowledgeable & when we don't have the answers very quick to investigate and respond. In an year where we have had conversations about something we never thought we would experience, it has been a great support to myself and my team Our Hostel services sit in 4 different local authorities, I can honestly say there has been no other support or sharing of information in the other areas 5 of our team were vaccinated this week and this has been a great relief to them to be recognised in the importance of their roles and the risks they face. I have found the regular meetings and the opportunity to relate to the other services useful and gives great hope to what is available to those who are vulnerable. So from myself and my team and I am sure all the other services you look after, big thanks and appreciation."

Children's Commissioning

- **CIC-** Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council's Children's Commissioning and Public Health Services will be hosting a virtual event for providers of residential services for children and young people on the 21st January 2021. Topics will include an overview of the current Covid-19 position across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and nationally, the role of Public Health, what to do in the event of Covid / Covid symptoms in settings, infection prevention and control measures, information sharing and a Q&A session for providers.
- **SEND/CWD-** Director of Education sent out letter to families on 7th January 2021 with details regarding critical workers, vulnerable children, free school meal entitlement and remote learning.

Part 2 – BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY

KEY SERVICE UPDATES – INTERNAL / EXTERNAL

Adults Commissioning

1. Long Term Care Team

- Investment in community catalyst pilot in the process of being awarded
- Care Home Block Bed Tender – awarded, although contracts are working with a number of providers who failed due diligence so some capacity is on hold until this is completed
- A number of business cases have been approved at JMT and relevant committees for investment in commissioning and programme resource to drive forward care suites and placed based commissioning models.

2. Prevention Early Intervention

- Housing Related Support procurement recommendation to be approved at Adults Committee in March 2021
- EIP Framework – Tender being evaluated – large number of response which is really positive
- PCC Lifeline Tender – Recommendation amended with more detail and due to be submitted to JCB
- Day Services across OP and LD – longer term strategy and approach on pause due to the need to prioritise the latest surge

3. Learning Disabilities

- In depth review of the Housing Strategy, and plan/approach for current development projects is being undertaken with a view of refining and approving both the approach and oversight of activities
- Both S75 agreements for LD need to be agreed and finalise with the CCG for 2021/22

Children's Commissioning

1. Children in Care

- **ART-** New provider concern process has been agreed and is being rolled out across both CCC and PCC.
- **Family Support Tender-** the Family Support Tender has been approved at Joint Commissioning Board to proceed to the 'pre-tender' stage. Stakeholder engagement is underway as is the development of tender documentation. We expect a slight delay to the 'go live' for this contract, and now forecast this to be 1 August 2021, rather than 1 July 2021.
- **Supported Accommodation Framework-** The extension request for the Supported Accommodation Framework is due to go to Joint Commissioning Board on 26 January. This seeks to extend the current Supported Accommodation framework for a period of 2 years, in accordance with the contractual extension period.
- **Dashboards-** the Placement Risk Tool dashboard is being developed to include a narrative outlining Provider risk, month-by-month change, and Commissioning activity in response. This will be available from February and is due for publication at Joint Children Health Commissioning Board on a bi-monthly basis.
- **DPS-** Tentative dates for market engagement and the closing of the DPS are as follows and are due to be ratified at the next Children's External Placements Governance Board.
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Provider Events

2nd March 2021
8th June 2021
5th October

DPS Round Closures

5th April 2021
5th July 2021
1st November 2021

- **SEND/CWD**

- **SEND Strategy - monitoring** meetings set up for Theme 3, Intents 5&6.
- **WSOA** – all necessary information put forward for DfE Monitoring Visit in January 2021.
- **SEND Recovery** – EHCP Forecasting Model transferred to Power BI. Workshops on launch and accessibility being arranged. Due for presentation at DMT on 15/02/2021. All other work streams ongoing and Senior Commissioner continues to attend board. Strategic Education Commissioning Governance Board [SE&GB] now mobilised and working well.
- **Joint Funding Arrangements**- Joint Funding Forms approval is currently delayed. Joint Funding Protocol being reviewed in final format; the JFP focuses solely on joint funding arrangements between PCC/CCC and the C&P CCG. The Continuing Care Operational Protocol is also being reviewed in final format; a Section 117 Operational Protocol (including Joint Funding Arrangement Matrix) will be collated.
- **SENDIASS**- C&P CCG have been working with PCC & CCC SENDIASS Services to scope a joint SENDIASS service. This exercise is helping to inform how the C&P CCG intend to contribute to the SENDIASS services on both an interim and ongoing basis.
- **All Age Autism Strategy** - The first All Age Cross County Autism Strategy Board Meetings has been scheduled for w/c 18/01/2021; there will be work-stream groups assigned to each of the Needs Assessment recommendations which will run parallel to the Autism Strategic Board.
- **Home Care/Domiciliary Care**- CWD Children’s Commissioning Managers liaising with colleagues in Adults’ Commissioning –to begin scoping an Options Appraisal for Home Care provision for CYP across Peterborough & Cambridgeshire.
- **Mediation & Disagreement Resolution Service**: PCC Following approval at the JCHCB for the 24 month extension, the Director's Award Report has been signed off and legal are issuing contract documentation.

- **Children and Families**- The Children’s Centre contract has now mobilised, with contract commencing on 18th January 2021, with Barnardo’s delivering across Peterborough and South Fenland. They have now moved from a mobilisation period to transition. Staff have been TUPE’d to Barnardo’s and initial delivery plans being rolled out. This mobilisation has been particularly challenging due to COVID-19 and the ongoing restrictions around service delivery, buildings and staffing.

FINANCIAL ISSUES**Adults Commissioning**

- Cost Pressure for Day Services is being incorporated into budget planning for 2021/22. It will be based on an assumption that existing infection control measures continue resulting in a reduction in capacity and alternative care packages being required at an additional cost.
- The risk share for the CCC LD S75 needs to be agreed for the next financial year, with a plan to address the need to undertake an extensive review of care packages in the longer term.
- Savings opportunities have been reviewed and incorporated into the PCC Tranche 2 Budget Consultation, which is due to be published shortly.

UPCOMING ISSUES & HORIZON SCANNING AREAS**Adults Commissioning**

- **LD Service Development within Burwell** – CCC land being used for a new TCP cohort development. This was put on hold due to COVID so is behind on original timescales. On review there are a significant number of issues relating to site suitability for the cohort, changes in funding

arrangements with NHS England and the need to look more strategically at the case for the development rather than base it on the needs of one service user.

- **NHS Funding for COVID commissioned capacity post end of March 2021** – if it is confirmed that national COVID funding will not continue, then exit plans will have to be implemented. A review of capacity and impact is being undertaken in conjunction with operational colleagues and wider system partners.

Children's Commissioning

- **Children in Care** - Officer dedicated to completing daily horizon scanning for Covid updates and potential funding opportunities and sharing with the team as applicable
- **Children and Families**- Reviewing the potential impact of COVID-19 on birth rates in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, which may result in increased demand for services across the Children's Commissioning portfolio.