

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

ASC Commissioning

1. Workforce Capacity Fund – One off grant to support the sector to increase capacity between Jan and March 2021. £1.162m in CCC and £396k in PCC and has to be spent in line with conditions set by March 2021. Recommended allocations have been approved. Plan has been submitted to DHSC in line with the national conditions.
2. Rapid Testing Fund – to support providers with the costs associated with using Lateral Flow Testing. £1.51M in CCC and £435k in PCC. 80% required to be passported straight to market in Cambridgeshire and 20% will be allocated to registered community providers, HRS and third sector who are using LFT. 20% to be progressed through governance once allocations are finalised.

Monthly returns were submitted in February to the DHSC in relation to progress of Infection Control Fund and Rapid Testing fund.

NHSE have instructed local areas to roll out mass vaccinations to cohort 6, which includes those who are extremely clinically vulnerable (CEV) and unpaid carers. In relation to unpaid carers, the national standard operating procedure is due to be published imminently. NHSE has received data from DWP nationally of those who are eligible for carers allowance and these carers have been invited to book through the national booking system. Carers who are flagged with their GP as a carer should also start to be invited to vaccinate. NHSE have requested all local authorities to share data on carers who are known to them and are actively receiving support in line with the JCVI Green Book definition of carers. We are in the process of collating this data to inform the return which is due on the 10/3. Based on information on recent NHSE/DHSC webinars it is our understanding that a process will be shared shortly for other unknown/hidden/new carers to access vaccination booking, so there is equitability of access. Vaccinations to cohorts 1-5 still continues and we continue to work with providers to support uptake amongst frontline social care staff. This includes developing communications and engagement strategies to address vaccine hesitancy.

The Government has announced the new single named visitor scheme for care homes which will go live 8 March. This forms part of the roadmap to cautiously easing lockdown restrictions in England, recently announced by the Prime Minister. All care home residents can nominate a single named visitor for indoor visiting, supported with LFD tests on every visit and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Local guidance is being developed to support providers to ensure they have processes and procedures in place to support this.

The Health and Social Care White Paper was published on 11th February 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-health-and-social-care-for-all>

. The white paper sets out legislative proposals for a Health and Care Bill, which further builds on the NHS Long Term Plan. The current timeline is for the legislative proposals for health and care reform will begin to be implemented in 2022. The White paper proposals cover three key areas, as well as an additional set of measures to support social care, public health and quality and safety, as outlined in the diagram below.

"Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all." White Paper.

Working together to integrate care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated Care Systems• Duty to collaborate• Triple aim• Foundation trusts capital spend limits• Joint committees• Collaborative Commissioning• Patient Choice• Data Sharing	Reducing bureaucracy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition• Arranging healthcare services• National tariff• New trusts• Removing Local Education Training Boards	Improving accountability and enhancing public confidence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Merging NHS England, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority and Secretary of State Powers of Direction• The NHS Mandate• Reconfigurations intervention power• Arm's length bodies (ALBs) transfer of functions• Removing special health authorities time limits• Workforce Accountability	Additional Measures: Supporting social care, public health and quality and safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social care:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assurance• Data• Direct payments to providers• Discharge to assess• A standalone power for the Better Care Fund
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CSC Commissioning

Children in Care

Lateral Flow Testing Community Sites available for CiC Providers.

Ofsted gave an update on their phased return to inspection, continuing in Spring

2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsteds-phased-return-to-inspection>

Routine inspection will remain suspended until later in the year but in Spring plans have been made to resume inspections for providers most in need of support. Inspections in schools, Further Education & Skills Providers will be carried out remotely with some on-site inspections where necessary to assure safeguarding. Registered early years will not have assurance inspections until restrictions allow on-site inspection. Fieldwork will be reassessed for local authority children's services for the remainder of spring term.

Social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) and assurance visits – guidance was added for social care providers on how inspectors can arrange to review records held on electronic systems.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/social-care-common-inspection-framework-sccif>

This will assist inspectors given the current covid-19 restrictions. This outlines what arrangements social care providers should discuss with inspectors, including when records can be accessed, if there will be IT support, if inspectors can access records remotely or if it will have to be done on site, if they should be accessed in the company of a staff member.

SEND/Children with Disabilities (CWD)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) asymptomatic testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries - Added updated information about reporting delivery and test issues using the form, and contacting the helpline for the link which has been shared with primary schools, school-based nurseries, and maintained nursery schools, to access guidance and support materials.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-and-nurseries>

Mass asymptomatic testing: schools and colleges - Added updated information about reporting delivery and test issues using the form and contacting the helpline for the link which has been shared with schools and colleges to access guidance and support materials.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for local government (updated)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for local government - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government)

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

ASC Commissioning

- **Extension to addition Capacity to support the latest surge in COVID-19 Cases** – formal confirmation is in place to extend covid capacity 6 weeks into the Q1 of 2021/22 in line with funding guidance issued. This will apply to placements made up to and including the 31st march 2021.
- **Discharge to Assess** - Working alongside the system to agree what the Discharge to Assess process will look like from both an operational and commissioning perspective post March 2021 once guidance and associated funding lapses.
- **Government White Paper** and reference to inspection and closer monitoring of Adult Social Care – Contracts and Commissioning are developing self-assessment framework for use by the team over the next 3-4 months to identify good practice, areas for improvement and associated actions.

CSC Commissioning

There are currently three Live Outbreaks being monitored and there is one supported accommodation in live surveillance.

CIC

Some Residential Children's Home Providers are reporting delays (as is expected currently) to Ofsted visits, resulting in delays to obtaining an initial judgement. As a result, where our contracted providers cannot meet need, we are seeing this challenge in the 'spot purchase market. This is also impacting newly registered providers being able to join our contractual arrangements; a discussion to review this is scheduled with Commissioning and Procurement.

SEND/CWD

The Access to Resources – Independent Special School Placements [ART ISEPs] Team continues to monitor attendance for the ISEPs 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). The ISEPs Team have met weekly with SAT to discuss any Covid-19 related issues.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

ASC 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.
- **Brokerage:** We are currently revisiting performance monitoring tools that were in train pre covid to deliver more routine performance data
- **Contracts:** Management of many outbreaks are still with the Contracts Team, however there has been a gradual phasing to Public Health picking up more cases which has reduced some of the pressure within the Contracts Team, along the reduction in outbreaks coming through in general.
- We continue to support access to mass vaccinations for providers who have eligible staff (see above section).

CSC Commissioning

CIC

Continuing to liaise with Fostering Agencies, Residential Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation providers to ensure that staff who are eligible access the vaccination programme.

Strategic providers meetings scheduled with Independent Fostering Agencies to explore Covid Recovery efforts, risks and concerns, and upcoming availability in the market.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

ASC Commissioning

- **Extension to addition Capacity to support the latest surge in COVID-19 Cases** – formal confirmation is in place to extend covid capacity 6 weeks into the Q1 of 2021/22 in line with funding guidance issued. This will apply to placements made up to and including the 31st march 2021.

CSC Commissioning

- SEND/CWD: JCB agreed to CCC going out to Tender for Reg 44 Visitors for 3 internally commissioned children's homes.
- C&F: VCS Infrastructure Support Services tender went live 5th January. The tender submission window has been extended 2 months while VCS providers respond to the 3rd lockdown. Paper to PCJCB 23 Feb 21 to approve application for an exemption waiver - approved.

NEW COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

ASC Commissioning:

- Approval on extension of NHS funding for hospital discharge placements up to and including the 31st march, to continue for up to 6 weeks into 2021/22.
- Workforce Grant Fund allocations have been approved.

CSC Commissioning

C&F

CLAS: Core funding (contract) and Winter Grant are approaching 80% spend and Covid funding is around 90% spent. Discussion with local organisations (Cambridge Aid, C3 church, Foody Cycle) to ensure end of Covid funding avoids creating a cliff edge with little available.

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

ASC Commissioning

- Brokerage is now fully staffed with no vacant posts. In addition to his, we have created two Brokerage D2A Leads. They will lead on the triage of D2A referrals alongside the Acute Brokerage Team. These are fixed term posts until March 31st 2020.
- Two further Brokers are in the process of being recruited to assist with acute referrals. These are fixed term posts until March 31st 2020.
We are awaiting guidance as to whether the funding will be extended for these posts.
- Recruitment of Contract Officers x2 has been successful. 2 internal candidates due to start 22 & 29 March.
- Business support around the Funding streams are also now in place this week.

CSC Commissioning

CIC- Throughout the entirety of the Commissioning service we have two staff off sick suffering from anxiety and depression – all attributable to Covid Lock-Down restrictions/ways of working/home schooling.

COMMUNICATIONS

ASC Commissioning

- Provider Newsletter continues to be circulated on a weekly basis.
- Regular communications to providers are being sent around vaccination updates and booking information.

CSC Commissioning

SEND/CWD

Awaiting government updates on 22/2/21 to progress Recovery Plan.

ISEPS Team continue to send regular Coronavirus Email briefings from the Service Director for Education to all ISEPS with current placements.

C&F

[Cambridge - Be Part Of The Solution - YouTube](#) shines a spotlight on the contribution of young people in tackling the pandemic. The film will be made available to schools and colleges across Cambridgeshire along with a toolkit of educational resources. A short version can be found on YouTube. A Peterborough version is being developed.

A locally comms plan is under development which encourages people to say yes to the vaccine. The plan also addresses the need to engage, inform and encourage vaccine uptake in the general population to increase confidence in the programme, and counter anti vax misinformation.

Part 2 – BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY

KEY SERVICE UPDATES – INTERNAL / EXTERNAL

ASC Commissioning

1. Long Term Care Team

- Out to recruit for a commissioner to support ABA
- Strategy for the recommissioning of interim and reablement bed provision to ensure a more outcomes focused approach is undertaken has been developed and will be presented to JCB shortly.

2. Prevention Early Intervention

- Housing Related Support procurement recommendation to be approved at Adults Committee in March 2021
- EIP Framework – Award recommendation approved at JCB – really good response and range of services in place.
- PCC Lifeline Tender – Recommendation amended with more detail and due to be submitted to JCB
- Day Services across OP and LD – increased transformation support in place to drive forward progress

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

CSC Commissioning

CIC

Placement finding

The ability to access in house fostering placements is becoming increasingly more difficult, with in the main bridging placements being available for those aged 11+. Those offered such placements are then required to move to an alternative Independent Fostering Agency due to the lack of capacity in the service, despite reducing numbers in care.

Children in Care Sufficiency Statement

Peterborough's and Cambridgeshire's Children in Care sufficiency Statements have both been drafted and shared for comment. The CCC version is formatted, and the PCC version is being formatted; this version is expected by the end of February. Pending comments from Commissioning Management, these will be

shared with Children's Services Senior Management for comment prior to governance reviews, publication and an update back to the Children and Young People who collaborated with the document.

Family Support Services

In December Joint Commissioning Board approved the Family Support Services specification to proceed to pre-tendering. Contract documents (i.e. specification, terms & conditions, method statements) are in the process of being developed.

Challenges with accessing data to inform usage of Family Support Services (particularly in CCC), and refocusing of Commissioning to support Covid response efforts has resulted in an amended 'go-live' date for the Framework; the Family Support Services tender will go live on 1 September 2021.

Bridge to Foster

Commissioning & Head of Service for Corporate Parenting met with Lancashire who have been running the Bridge to Foster model with the National Fostering Agency (NFA) and a series of other Independent Fostering Agencies. Meeting planned to review proposed model in the context of Lancs feedback, following which a briefing will be shared with senior management summarising meeting and identifying next steps.

Provider concerns process

The Provider Concerns process for any non-safeguarding concerns in externally commissioned provision has been launched. Both PCC & CCC IRO services have received the documentation. To be launched with Social Care Heads of Service at the March Placement Mix Meeting.

Supported Accommodation

The P+C Joint Commissioning Board approved extension to Supported Accommodation Framework, for first extension period of 2 years, to September 2023. Extension letters to be drafted and sent to providers (March 2021).

Dynamic Purchasing System [DPS] for Children's External Placements

Provider event (all Lots) scheduled for 16 March 2021. Agenda to include Covid recovery updates, service area specific sufficiency information, and service area specific themes and trends.

Meeting scheduled with Commissioning leads to review DPS entry requirements, in light of provider feedback and delays to Ofsted judgements being provided to newly registered homes.

CCRAG (Children's Cross Regional Arrangements Group)

The tender for the CCRAG database is currently being evaluated. The Senior SEND Commissioning Manager is leading on this from CCC & PCC perspective, as the both authorities are on the Steering Group. ICHA (Independent Children's Homes Association) have launched independent database for residential children's homes who are ICHA members. There is a need to ensure that developments to the CCRAG database do not conflict with the ICHA, particularly from a provider perspective.

Non-Covid related workforce challenges.

Two members of the Access to Resources Team [Children in Care and ISEPS] have given their one-month notice period, leaving in February and March. Currently out to recruit to these posts, but capacity may be an issue going forwards

SEND/CWD

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 Snr 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 moving forward; currently with the C&P CCG for sign off. Joint Funding Protocol has been to COT and JCHCB to be approved in final format; the JFP focuses solely on joint funding arrangements between PCC/CCC and the C&P CCG. A Section 117 Operational Protocol (including Joint Funding Arrangement Matrix) will be collated.

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service]-[SENDIASS]

C&P CCG have been working with PCC & CCC SENDIASS Services to scope a joint SENDIASS service. The C&P CCG have approved funding towards a Joint SENDIASS Service from April 2021, confirmations is needed with regard to Social Care contribution.

Children's Equipment Provision

A paper has been collated outlining the recommendations for Children's Equipment Provision across PCC & CCC. C&P CCG colleagues are supporting with information, to enable the LAs and CCG to move forward with recommendations.

All Age Autism Strategy

All Age Cross County Autism Strategy Board Meetings are progressing alongside the work stream groups. Children's Commissioning are working with colleagues in Adults and the CCG to collate an Autism Toolkit for the commissioning of services.

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. This will consider placed based/zone approach.

CCC met with 6 new providers from the Home Care framework, completed due diligence and they are ready to receive Requests For Quotes [RFQs.].

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.

CCC contract monitoring for Global mediation undertaken Jan 21. Framework monitoring scheduled 18/3/21 hosted by Sussex.

Direct Payment Delivery Board - Direct Payment Briefing collated; specifically looking at impact to PCC's Direct Payment budget for CYP. Commissioning Officer has supported with further research to give context to the Direct Payment Board proposals; to be shared. Transformation support has been requested to explore a DP uplift framework.

Placement Finding

The ISEPS Team has been liaising with Commissioning to identify effective ways to implement the Expression of Interest process in order to identify placements for children and young people with complex needs stepping down from Tier 4, or as a preventative for that trajectory.

C&F

Emotional Health and Well-Being Service – The commissioning of a new service model via the P+C CCG is progressing. Discussions in relation to contractual responsibilities, on-going with existing provider. Concerns remain in relation to the Transfer of Undertakings and Protection of Employment [TUPE] responsibilities

FINANCIAL ISSUES

CSC Commissioning

CIC

There has been an increase in the needs of children/young people with complex needs and behaviours over the last 6 weeks. This is resulting in higher cost placements being required due to the level of need and support.

UPCOMING ISSUES & HORIZON SCANNING AREAS

ASC 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.

CSC Commissioning
C&F

[Census 2021](#) is coming. It takes place on Sunday 21 March 2021. Expect to receive letters with access code to complete Census online although other options will be made available. There are 4 Census Engagement Managers supporting CCC and PCC.

CPSL Mind awarded funding from Dept. of Health and Social care to target Muslim women with perinatal mental health issues