

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

- DHSC instruction to the Directors of Adult Social Services to arrange for all people leaving hospital who required nursing or residential care who are COVID Positive or who are COVID negative but unable to comply with the social isolation protocols to be accommodated in a “designated care setting” until their period of quarantine ends. Approval from the CCG Governing Body has now been received to fund designated setting capacity for COVID positive patients being discharged from hospital. We are working with CQC to comply with the assurance requirements for these settings before we are able to bring the capacity online. We continue to work with the CCG to finalise commissioned capacity for COVID negative people who are unable to comply with isolation following hospital discharge.
- Letters were sent to all care homes from Charlotte Black (DASS) and Dr Liz Robin (DPH) to highlight guidance and support in relation to visiting in care homes. It particularly highlighted the following key points:
 - Decisions around visiting policies should take into account local infection rates, the individual needs of residents and the home environment;
 - Recent legal opinion has been clear that there should be no blanket bans on visiting, even during periods of local or national lockdown;
 - Essential visiting (which we define as “to prevent or respond to residents’ health and wellbeing changing for the worse; to help with communication and/or distress, and allowing important time with loved ones, in circumstances approaching end of life”) should always be permitted;
 - Social workers can assist with individual risk assessments, for visits, and can advise on decision-making where the person in question lacks capacity to make the decision themselves
- Following submission of our Adult Social Care Winter Plans to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a regional ADASS review of plans was undertaken. Feedback from this review has been positive and we continue to review plans and outcomes in light of this feedback.

Children’s Commissioning

- The Furlough Job Retention Scheme has been extended to Spring 2021 with employees receiving 80% of their current salary. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-furlough-to-march-and-increases-self-employed-support>). This is relevant to CLAS.
- Covid Winter Grant Scheme: to be issued 18 November 20. To provide food and fuel to vulnerable families with children during Dec to March 21. Relevant to CLAS. CCC to receive £1,459,490.26 and PCC £743,661.56.
- Vicky Ford MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, released the attached [open letter](#) addressed to all children and young people with SEND, their parents/carers and families, and others who support them.
- Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers. Published 19 March 2020. Last updated **3 November 2020** — [see all updates](#). Catch Up Funding – the DfE have awarded funding to Local Authorities [£250 per pupil] for each placement for a young person with an EHCP. This will be disseminated to Schools following publication of the place data in January 2020. This includes the provision of Independent Non Maintained Special Schools, however clarity is being sought in

relation to whether LA's have to fund for their pupils with EHCP regardless of location, or whether it is all EHCP's within their LA boundary.

All EHCP Easements were lifted in September 2020.

At risk categories [shielding as was] remain in place and therefore some children and young people are not accessing a full complement of provision. This is being monitored and monthly huddles have been reinstated to ensure oversight of emerging need, risk and demand.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Adults

- **Discharge to Assess Bed Capacity to support pathway 2:** Work has been undertaken in partnership with health to identify existing short term bed capacity across the system and develop a more integrated way of placing people based on need for up to 6 weeks. This will enable those who require wrap around support to receive it.
- **COVID Isolation Beds for people who are Covid Positive on discharge from hospital and purposeful wanders:** There is a requirement to identify a designated care home which can be inspected by CQC by the end of October. A PIN was issued to the market and a good response received. COVID Positive Beds has been approved at CCG Governing Body. We are finalising the arrangements for the COVID negative beds with the CCG. See above.
- **LD/MH Crisis and Isolation Beds:** Capacity covering the above and community crisis for LD and MH has also been identified. This has been approved at CCG Governing Body and being implemented.
- **Infection Control Fund:** A second round of infection control funding has been released. Finance, Contracts and Commissioning are working through the allocations at present but a key decision relating to the 20% discretionary element will need to be taken to Adults Committee on 10th December. The decision doesn't hit key decision threshold in Peterborough. In relation to the 80% element of the fund, all providers have been written to informing them of their allocations. Subject to returning of signed agreements and compliance with the national conditions, the first instalment of payments have commenced to providers. The local authorities are due to receive the second instalment in December 2020. The first report to DHSC was submitted on the 23rd November 2020.
- **Housing Related Support – COVID-19:** guidance for commissioners and providers of hostel services for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping' places a duty on Local Authorities to have a clear picture of all alternative local provision that could be used in the case of an outbreak. The Housing Board will be reviewing the full impact of this guidance with a view to identifying potential solutions at the next housing board.

Children's Commissioning

- A new reporting mechanism has gone live through the CWD Commissioning Website, whereby Providers are able to report on COVID 19 cases. This will be cross referenced with Public Health Data to ensure there are no gaps/issues.
- Commissioners have negotiated through CCC PPE, that CCC community support staff will be trialling clear face masks with young people.
- Public Health have requested that Children's Commissioning replicate Adult Commissioning's processes in liaising with PH & infection control colleagues when providers report positive cases of Covid [children and staff/carers]. This has been implemented.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Adults

- **Care Home Sustainability –** A block bed tender was issued to the market with the aim of sustaining local provision through the offer of longer term financial security. At stage 1, 526 beds were awarded and we are now progressing to stage 2 to ensure maximum bed numbers are received. Due to award Jan 2021.

- **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. A proposed concept has been co-produced and a business case which outlines resource required to progress this has been drafted. Due to come to JMT for approval on 3rd December before being taken to Adults Committee and General Purposes Committee in January 2021.

Children's

- Pan PCC and CCC Business continuity panel continues, however activity is reasonably minimal, with few areas of significant financial difficulty and requests for Council support.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Adults

- COVID Positive Beds approved at CCG Governing Body for all client groups

NEW COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Adult's

- COVID positive beds will be commissioned via local authority, with agreement from the CCG that NHS Discharge funding will cover the cost
- Finance continue to reconcile NHS funded expenditure incurred by the local authority on a monthly basis via the CCG local return to NHSE.

Children's

- All COVID financial impacts are being monitored, and are in line with Business Cases submitted per authority. Expenditure is scrutinised at each authorities' monthly Budget Control Report meetings and via the Business Continuity Panel.

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

- One member of staff off sick with Covid [positive]
- One staff member has left the service leaving the SEND Commissioning section at maximum capacity.

COMMUNICATIONS

Adults

- The Mental Health Recovery and Community Inclusion Service was commissioned in September 2019 and is being delivered as The Good Life Service by CPSL Mind. A celebration event was held in October 2020 to review the impact that the service has had in its first 12 months of delivery, which included the response to the C19 pandemic.
- A letter on visiting guidance has been sent to all care homes from the DPH and DAS.
- All providers who are eligible for the 80% element of the Infection Control Funding (round 2) have been written to informing them of their allocations and the national conditions associated with the grant.

Children's

For more information about Children's Commissioning please go

to: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/children-and-young-people/childrens-commissioning/>

Business Planning 2021/22

- We continue to input into the business planning process, which is due to have approvals finalised throughout December/January.

EU Exit Planning

- Business continuity planning is being integrated into wider business continuity work around COVID, winter planning etc. to ensure a holistic approach. Commissioning are linked with corporate internal EU Exit Governance, as well as wider health and social care planning and LGA/ADASS regional work. Weekly updates on ASC workforce risks are being fed into the Local Resilience Forum. We continue to have regular dialogue with providers which includes (i) communicating the latest information regarding EU settlement to providers, to enable them to support their workforce with application information; (ii) Seeking assurance from providers that they have adequate business continuity plans in place; and (iii) Ongoing dialogue with providers, including via existing provider forums, to ensure provider concerns and issues can be identified. A survey is due to be sent to providers to understand any issues/concerns around supply chain impacts.

Adults**Long Term Care Team**

- Investment in community catalyst pilot is in the process of being awarded.
- Care Home Block Bed Tender – see above under covid recovery activities
- A number of business cases are due to be developed for investment in commissioning and programme resource to drive forward care suites and placed based commissioning models.
- OP Accommodation needs assessment drafted and commissioning intentions are now being developed.

Prevention Early Intervention

- OT Section 75 – being drawn up for March 2021 and more robust governance structures have been established.
- Housing Related Support Strategy is due to go to Adults Committee in December 2020, with a recommendation to remove the existing savings target, although remodelling work and focus on efficiency will be maintained. Procurement recommendation due to be taken in March 2021.
- EIP Framework – Tender due to launch in December 2020.
- PCC Lifeline Tender – Currently on hold whilst a review of whether better value for money can be achieved through using the TEC Service to deliver it is undertaken.
- Day Services across OP and LD - Mobilised at reduced capacity and work to develop a future model has commenced. Longer timescales likely to be required due to complexity.

Mental Health

- Dementia Resource Centre – Due to be awarded in December 2020.

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.

Better Care Fund

- National Better Care Fund Policy Statement was published on the 3rd December 2020. This confirms that there is no requirement for formal plans to be submitted to NHSE for 2020/21, with the national recommendation to health and wellbeing boards being to roll forward 2019/20 plans to ensure service continuity. This approach to local 2020/21 plans was approved at the Health and Wellbeing Joint Core Group on the 4th December 2020.
- Reporting on national metrics has been suspended for 2020/21, though there will be an end of year financial reconciliation report due to NHSE.

Children and Families

- **Children's Centres/Child and Family Centres:** Mobilisation of this contract continues.
- **Best Start in Life:** Plans are progressing to move forward with pilot areas in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Pilots will be taking place in Wisbech and Central Cambs, and in Peterborough pilots are running in Paston and Central and Thistlemore. Initial meetings have been held in all areas with key stakeholders including health visiting, midwifery, children's centres and early years, which involved discussing and identifying issues that affected the local area. The priority areas are being confirmed. Project Management is being put in place to ensure that the pilots are supported and that the activity and learning is shared across each of the pilots.
- **Young Parents Service** – Tender for this service has now come to a close and the evaluation panel has completed individual evaluations. Moderation has been completed. One bid received – and recommendation made by panel to award the contract. Approval required at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Commissioning Board [CPJCB], and subject to approval will require a waiver, as only one bid was received.

Children in Care Commissioning

- **Form F Fostering Assessors** PCC– Awarded to 'Carter Brown – The Expert Service'. Contract has been initiated, and is now handed over to the service.
- **Family Support Services** – The first draft of the Business Case is in progress and due at the Commissioning Service Management Meeting in December. Pending approval, will move to pre-tendering stage in January, to include instructing legal & procurement, and engagement with stakeholders, including providers. Current timescales have a 'go live date' of 01/07/2021.
- **Sufficiency Strategy** – CCC CiC sufficiency strategy first draft completed. PCC sufficiency in hand with formatting to be completed thereafter.
- **Supported Accommodation** - Monitoring schedule has been developed to support Commissioning & ART to maintain the QA of both on and off contract Supported Accommodation providers; this is currently in place with visits scheduled over next 6 months to all providers (local providers or those with placements).

SEND and Children with Disabilities Commissioning

- Draft Commissioning Framework for internally commissioned overnight and residential short break offer has been drafted and being reviewed in preparation for a final deadline of 1 Dec 2020. [CCC]
- A similar framework is being drafted and implemented for internally commissioning community short breaks [both home and community support and holiday clubs - CCC]
- Provider event for children's home and community support being held in Jan 2021. Feedback will inform a wider programme of work reviewing the options in relation to the home and community support contract held by adults, how this is performing for children's services and scoping the options of continuing, developing or re-commissioning.
- All Age Autism -The Needs Assessment collated by Public Health has been approved by the JCHCB. A series of Focus Groups are being held by Pinpoint and Family Voice to ensure parent carers are in support of the recommendations it makes. These will be fed into the Autism Strategy.
- A paper is being collated to outline recommendations for OT Equipment, following the Gap Analysis that was undertaken.
- Commissioning Strategy – Strategy for CWD and CiC, including generic introduction is complete, SEND is being worked on and anticipated by the end of the year.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Adults

- Cost Pressure for Day Services needs to be 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.
- What Works Community Initiative - County and District partners submitted a joint Expression of Interest to be considered for inclusion in the 'What Works Community Initiative' for local government which provides a free, quality, learning experience aimed at helping local authorities

address homelessness issues in their area using data and evidence. We received notification this week that our EOI was successful, so we now have the opportunity to be included in the programme. This will give us access to a range of resources that can help support transformation and the implementation of the arc recommendations

Children's

None to report over and above those reported through existing mechanisms.

UPCOMING ISSUES & HORIZON SCANNING AREAS

Adults

- **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. Approach has been reviewed and a new project plan is in development which addresses previous gaps and project management support had been identified. There are a significant number of key decisions about funding and models of operation which need to be made over the next few months, which will be brought forward for governance oversight. The approach has no approval of CN&I to use the site yet and planning permission will be required and several risks with this site mean it will not be straight forward. A communications plan is a key tool to be developed.

Children's

- Covid Recovery Commission
<https://covidrecoverycommission.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Levelling-up-communities.pdf>
Many of these issues (improving educational opportunities, building more resilient communities, strengthening economic growth and creating jobs, supporting development and upskilling in the workplace or ensuring that mental health is central to policymaking) can be more effectively tackled where local policymakers and politicians and local people are involved in what happens.

