

## **P&C COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT**

<b>SERVICE AREA:</b>	Children and Safeguarding
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<b>REPORTING PERIOD:</b>	To 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2020

### **KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES**

- Continuing to support front-line delivery to children likely to be in greatest need/at most risk and ensuring we prioritise face to face visits where needed and safe enough to do so;
- Other visits taking place virtually and/or being delayed;
- Have agreed and amended process allowing families to participate in meetings about their children via telephone
- Cherry Lodge in Peterborough open to highest priority children and young people with disabilities from tomorrow;
- Action for children homes in Cambridgeshire operating on similar basis;
- Greater access to PPE, but continuing to use only in line with Public Health England guidance.

### **RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)**

- As previously, risks relate to staffing in the event that more of our staff become unwell. Mitigation is to continue prioritising and re-prioritising our work so that we can manage any reduced capacity;
- Placement position currently just about manageable for children in care. Mitigation is continued placement provider liaison by Access to Resources Team;
- Continued low rates of referrals – in line with children not being seen for example in schools – but risk is that there is a significant spike in referrals once system returns to normality. Mitigation available is limited, but Hubs aware of referral routes etc should they be concerned about children or young people
- Youth justice board are releasing some young offenders early placing additional capacity strains on placement and housing markets.

### **WORKFORCE UPDATE**

- Workforce capacity is manageable at present and able to meet demands of children and families.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)**

- Any additional costs as a result of early release of young offenders being captured;
- Some impact on delayed redundancies in Cambridgeshire County Council early help services, also being captured;
- Risk and cost will increase if the placement provider market becomes more challenging and we need to use residential or other high cost placements;
- In Cambridgeshire County Council we are experiencing delays in recruitment of adult posts in the Family Safeguarding teams. Family Safeguarding reduces numbers of children in care and this may therefore have an impact on the expected reduction of care numbers in the County. The potential impact is being modelled at present.

<b>RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on recruitment of foster carers continuing</li><li>• Working with National Probation Service to seek probation employee secondments for Family Safeguarding in Cambridgeshire</li><li>• Ensuring that those who are only able to work from home are updating case files including chronologies.</li></ul>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>
<p>Cabinet Member and Adviser – joint communication to all staff thanking them for their commitment etc in Peterborough City Council;</p> <p>Chair CYP Committee – communication to all staff in thanking them for their commitment etc Cambridgeshire County Council;</p> <p>Joint communication from Assistant Directors as above</p>