

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

<b>SERVICE AREA:</b>	Education
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### KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- The number of pupils in schools has remained broadly static from last week although there has been an increase in numbers accessing early year's settings. We continue to support key workers and vulnerable children. Leaders have indicated their willingness to open on the bank holiday this Friday.
  - Around 290 schools have been open across most of the week with schools only being closed due to lack of demand or schools merging their provision. We have consistently had over 330 children with a social worker attend and around 180 pupils with Education Health and Care Plans. We continue to meet all parental demand.
  - The position on the 30<sup>th</sup> April within early years provision can be seen below –

	Childminders		Early Years		Overall Children
	Number	% Open	Number	% Open	
CCC	228	38%	133	38%	1071
PCC	72	46%	21	16%	323

- Vulnerable pupils – in light of new government guidance, we have developed a new protocol for risk assessing access to schools. This has been coproduced with all services including our parent carer forum. We have written to parents to make sure they are clear on school opening.
- We are communicating daily with schools and settings giving updates and interpretation on government guidance. We have provided support this week on early year's regulation changes, deferral requests from parents, Covid-19 testing for education staff, trainee teachers and support for SEND.
- We have collected details on pupils needing ICT support who have a social worker. We have also consulted maintained secondary age school provision over their need for ICT for year 10 pupils who are disadvantaged. We intend placing an order with the DfE this week.
- The DfE Free School Meal scheme (Edenred) continues to present issues for schools and parents. A further retailer, McColls, was added this week but Lidl and Coop remain absent from this list. In addition, access to the system remains challenging and vouchers are not been processed. Our daily sharing of concerns with the Department for Education is resolving some issue but it is still a source of much frustrations for leaders and parents. We continue to advise schools to use alternative payment methods until the issues are resolved.
- SEND Legislation changes – on Friday the Government put in place temporary legislative changes relating to Coronavirus and SEND. It made two key changes around SEND –
  - The duty to secure and provide the provision in an Education Health and Care plan. LAs and health bodies to use 'reasonable endeavours' to secure provision in the current context. This gives some flexibility to support needs.
  - Timescales – there are some outline changes in timescales of EHCPs (particularly related to new assessments)

We are currently considering this guidance and we will provide further information to schools and settings next week. It is likely we will have to contact parents to discuss how needs can be met in the current context.

- We have started to develop a strategy to support families over restarting school – i.e. getting children back into good sleep patterns, behaviour management and ready for learning. We intend putting together information for families and are considering a media campaign including texts to parents to remind them of the need to get children school ready.

### RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- Admissions – we currently have in-year applications on hold due to schools being closed. We will restart this process once the new intake processes are complete and the holiday period has passed. We are also concerned around a potential shortage of members of appeals panels.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety in leaders / staff in schools is a huge concern – we are in regular contact with all maintained schools and are providing support for bereavement. In Peterborough, we have included schools in our employee assistance programme which provides support to all staff.</li> <li>• Financial viability of providers in early years / catering / building contractors – there is going to be a legacy issue with provision potentially closing due to financial challenges.</li> <li>• Legal requirements around EHCP – as outlined above. We are working hard to ensure we meet the new legislative requirements and are redeploying schools from elsewhere in the directorate.</li> <li>• Schools financial position – we continue to work schools in financial difficulties. We are unable to undertake restructures during the period of closure. The grants available to schools are limited.</li> <li>• Alternative Provision - We have raised concerns with the DfE around some alternative provision (for those excluded pupils) which may have to close due to the financial standing of the provider. We have identified alternative provision but this will require further expenditure and will impact upon the young people placed there. To date, we have had to find new provision for 11 students to date.</li> </ul>
<b>WORKFORCE UPDATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no critical issues currently with staff absence. We continue to have capacity challenges in the Schools Funding team in Peterborough with support being provided by the Service Director. Across the wider service, our capacity for business as normal activity is significantly impaired.</li> <li>• We have seconded two Ofsted inspectors to support the work in Education. They will be supporting developing home learning advice for SEND, reviewing our advice to schools, enhancing our home learning support for Secondary and developing our recovery plan.</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education has quantified all its financial impact for overall council reports. All training and traded service have been cancelled until May half term.</li> <li>• Continue to review rent payment arrangement with early years settings that are using our buildings.</li> <li>• Schools and settings continue to be confused by the government schemes for loss of income especially where furlough is used in schools and settings. We continue to provide advice where we can.</li> </ul>
<b>RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are expecting an announcement from government over the reopening of schools and settings next week. We expect there will be a three week notice period for schools / settings to prepare and any opening will be partial – i.e. particular year groups e.g. year 10, year 5.</li> <li>• The first version of our recovery plan will be sent to schools on Monday and we are planning a number of seminars to support school leaders across next week. Further follow up sessions will happen in the coming weeks.</li> <li>• We are working on a similar plan for Early Years.</li> <li>• Once an announcement is made over reopening, we will develop plans for restarting council services which have been affected by Covid-19.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily positive news story continue to be publish and we continue to promote our early years advice line to parents.</li> <li>• We have weekly meetings with the trade unions to discuss key concerns for their members. This has been an effective partnership with few issues raised to date.</li> <li>• We have been sharing videos from staff to pupils and are holding a competition to decide the best video. Headteachers lack rhythm and dance moves...the Service Director has offered advice!</li> <li>• In light of the VE day celebrations, we are asking schools next week to share pictures of children in school holding up a poster which says "To those who gave so much, we thank you."</li> </ul>