

P&C COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Children's Commissioning CCC & PCC
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REPORTING PERIOD:	25/04/2020 – 01/05/2020

KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

Children in Care –

Continuing to liaise closely with strategic providers to review business continuity issues, future vacancy information, placement stability and general concerns and issues.

Scoping of potential alternative accommodation options for Children in Care and Children with Disabilities, alongside Social Care and SEND.

Access to Resources [ART]

Continuing difficulty in managing to source placements for children and young people in both the internal and external market. This trend may worsen.

There have been no placement breakdowns in CCC that are Covid -19 related in the last week.

There were two Covid-19 related placement breakdowns in PCC this week, which was for the same young person.

Supported accommodation providers have confirmed availability of vacancies, which may support any provider failure incidences across the board. There is a fortnightly meeting held with key strategic supported accommodation providers.

SEND

We have been collating the provision of Out of School Tuition identifying where tuition itself didn't take place, but where keeping in touch visits/calls did. We have seen a number of students not receiving timetabled hours and Providers reporting refusal to engage/remote teaching refused. This has been highlighted given critical role in safeguarding that tuition plays. Information has been re-shared to providers for reporting concerns.

Feedback from a strategic Provider relating to how students in general have transitioned to online delivery has been favourable, and they have commented that Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's communication, preparedness and forward planning has been exceptional; and stands 'head and shoulders' above other local authority areas they are working with.

New legislative changes have been issued in relation to the statutory duties placed on Council's to deliver Education Health and Care Plans. This is being considered and through a joint commissioning huddle, some operational changes may be required. This will be reported next week.

A strategic education Provider in Cambridge City commented that the support received from Commissioning has been exceptional and seemingly well ahead of other funding authorities they have been working with, enabling them to seamlessly continue to provide effective education for vulnerable children and young people and key worker families.

Children with Disabilities [CWD]

Ongoing review of Short Break and Domiciliary Care provision for children and young people with disabilities in both Councils. There is currently capacity in the system due to reduction or refusal of packages. This is being quantified to ensure the capacity is effectively utilised across the system

Action for Children (AFC)-continues to function across the 3 homes with reduced capacity (1 at London Rd Section 31, 2 at Haviland Way and 2 at Woodland Lodge). The infection control meeting reported last week has taken place and will inform recovery planning.

Insourcing of Residential Children's homes-remains on track to come under CCC 3/9/20.

The Children and Young People End of Life and Crisis Intervention Pathway is being finalised and will be ready for use w/c 11 May.

Children and Families

All children and family contracted services have increased the use of digital and remote working to maintain service provision and are using a variety of apps/platforms that suit children and young people's needs.

It is recognised that consideration will need to be given as to how facilities can be safely opened during the recovery period, to enable families to access support.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

Children in Care –

Fee increase requests have begun to be received which may result in cost pressures. These are being considered via the business continuity panel.

Increasingly, fostering providers are reporting shortages in capacity.

Children and Families

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) is also experiencing rising number of people asking for help while waiting for Universal Credit (UC). Commissioning is gathering together local money advice support organisations, and specialist money advisers to look at this issue.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

There are no Staff off sick and all staff are working from home

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

Transition from face to face provision to online delivery meant that 2:1 provision was effectively mitigated. For the week following 16/03/2020 this reduced expenditure by around £20k, while maintaining provision.

No increased costs or reductions this week due to Covid-19.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

Work has begun on formalising a recovery / resilience plan for all commissioned services. This will likely focus on key pressures within service areas; availability of quality placements for children and young people, and mechanisms to be employed to increase access to suitable placement options.

The Business Continuity Panel will remain in situ in order to track and progress recovery planning.

COMMUNICATIONS

ART & Commissioning have a fortnightly meeting with key strategic Provider, particularly supported accommodation providers & Independent Fostering Agencies.

FAQs continue to be distributed weekly to external providers and the incident report log is distributed daily to senior management. FAQs for the week ending 1 May 2020 will include an acknowledgement of the dedication, resilience and continued support our carers, support workers, teaching and care staff have demonstrated in recent weeks within their key roles supporting and caring for our children and young people.

Campaign of messages focusing on children and young people's mental health:

Now We're Talking, Chathealth and Lifeline are all promoting their services and aiming to reach and remind children, young people and families about their services as many mental health providers, Chums, Centre 33, Fullscope, are noting a rise in young people expressing anxieties around Covid 19 and loneliness. Caring Together, who deliver services to young carers in Peterborough, are undertaking a survey with young carers across Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Caring Together is providing a help line, and enhanced telephone support service to provide emotional support to those carers who need it (a mix of staff and volunteers providing this service), and have started offering a virtual support for both young carers/siblings and adult carers through the form of virtual sessions as well as offering 1:1 support via video.