

P&C COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Children's Commissioning CCC and PCC
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KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

Children in Care –

Individual meetings scheduled (09/04/20) with 9 strategic Independent Fostering Agencies, to review current risks and challenges, and to consider current and future capacity to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Children in Care.

Scoping the potential use of outdoor education services to provide temporary accommodation options for Children in Care, following engagement from Somerset CC who have already implemented this across four outdoor services.

Access to Resources [ART]

Increasing difficulty in managing to source placements for children and young people in both the internal and external market. This trend is likely to continue and worsen. The difficulties at present are being exacerbated by there being a number of 'live' complex cases currently too.

Youth Justice Board (YJB) are to progress those young people with an early release date from custodial centres, the Criminal Justice Board is looking at women with babies/pregnant and in prison that could temporarily be released and similarly consideration to community options for those on remand in custodial centres. A number will need external placements, which will be at inflated costs, or potential social care involvement.

Initial discussions being held to understand scope/numbers and requirements

Provider Issues:

- **Pains Mill Foyer & Peterborough City Council (PCC) Foyer** Currently not accepting new request for accommodation, due to risk of infection.
- **YMCA** Reduced capacity as young people who were due to move into shared provisions within the YMCA, are currently unable to do so due to Covid-19. Voids that should have been available are now not, and young people remaining in single placements.
- **Alliance Care** [IFA] is still unable to provide placements, thus reducing market capacity.

The Independent Special Education Provisions [ISEPS] ART team is currently working on 127 consultations sent to various school provisions, based on 85 children and young people. Placements are being offered and virtual assessments are being offered in lieu of face to face, however placements starting is dependent on the Covid-19. Majority of children are currently in receipt of high cost out of school tuition packages.

Children with Disabilities [CWD]

Action for Children (AFC)-continues to function across the 3 Cambridgeshire homes with reduced capacity. Service Manager from Cherry Lodge, Peterborough, has discussed with AFC how to manage the rotas to prevent the need for closure. By reducing the numbers of children the individual homes can isolate and maintain staffing levels. 0-25 Service continue to prioritise the children needing the service. Good communication across AFC, PCC & CCC is maintained and CWD/SEND Huddles are being well represented by Education, Health and Social Care

Domiciliary Care-Community Support Service (CSS) are actively managing the needs across external and internal providers. There is currently capacity in the system due to Camplay [in house holiday clubs] not engaging in face to face activities.

Insourcing of Residential Children with Disabilities homes remains on track to come under CCC 3/9/20. Risks remain in terms of accessing the building to progress IT and property issues. AFC have furloughed some back office staff which could impact in terms of HR and legal advice etc. Business as Usual activity continues to progress the insourcing.

A scoping exercise has taken place and report is being developed setting out mobilisations plans [including buildings, resource, Staff and costs associated] for opening alternative buildings and provision to accommodate CWD who may require a change, increase or crisis intervention.

Children and Families

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

- Chums providing post suicide bereavement support to families, young people and professionals
- Centre 33 coordinating post suicide support response with The Kite Trust to reduce likelihood of copycat suicides amongst LGBTQ young people.
- The Kite Trust offering additional 1:1 services
- Kooth providing on line counselling

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS)

- Increasing demand of CLAS:
 - 7,000 people in Cambridgeshire registered for Universal Credit (UC) last week (DWP). Once their salaries run out and food supplies diminish, they will be reliant on CLAS and food banks while they wait for UC to arrive.

Young Carers [YC]

Cambridgeshire:

- Centre 33 have identified 73 high risk young carers out of a 1000 needing additional support. C33 is managing risk by hosting on line groups, as this is being requested by young carers.
- Many Young Carer families are shielding and therefore opted not to take up school places.
- The number of YC families needing food parcels is increasing. Commissioners are working with the district Hubs.

Peterborough:

- Caring Together have identified 22 high risk young carers out of 365. Issues raised by YCs include mental health as not socializing, concerns about finance, and older young carers unsure what will happen about starting university.

Other:

The process to request emergency PPE has been updated in line with new Public Health England guidance. The current arrangements remain with the central Cambridgeshire PPE Service and we have forecasted requirements for all commissioned services and returned to the PPE Sub-Group (COVID-19 Incident Co-ordination Centre Support). Guidance has been circulated to key providers and added to our provider Frequently Asked Questions log.



Process - Emergency
PPE request process f

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

Children in Care –

Independent Fostering Agencies are reporting that other Local Authorities are opting to fund retained placements, which is likely to impact the availability of appropriate placements for both Council's. Commissioning are meeting with strategic fostering providers to consider the issue and mitigating actions.

Providers are reporting that many young people are now starting to adhere to social distancing and 'lockdown' restrictions, but some young people continue to defy government requirements.

Access to Resources [ART]

Foster carers self-isolating or not taking placements is reducing market capacity and exacerbating pressure on in-house to place. Capacity information is updated twice per week across both authorities to improve our ability to identify and match suitable placement options.

There is an increasing trend for placements to be under threat of break down due to children leaving placement several times a day and carers viewing that they and others in the house are being put at risk.

Children and Families

YMCA suspended Appropriate Adult service visits to all police stations 9.4.2020 as they were unable to safeguard the welfare of AA volunteers. YMCA are offering telephone support to detainees instead.

The Youth Offending Service [YOS] and commissioners urgently met and have agreed the decision that Appropriate Adults are not to attend Parkside police station in person until the conclusion of the Cov19 situation. This will be regularly reviewed. This is because the facilities at Parkside do not allow for social distancing or management of symptomatic detainees.

In relation to Thorpe Wood, concerns were expressed about how far the agreed social distancing, access to PPE and space in the custody suite is being managed. YMCA has been given the authority to assess the situation at Thorpe Wood and if satisfied they can recommence AA visits. If not, telephone remains the option

The situation will be reviewed on Tuesday 14th April with YOS, Constabulary and YMCA.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

There are currently no staff off sick. The entire commissioning function is now working from home.

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

Provider Viability

The first Business Continuity Viability Panel has been held, with one Provider submitting a financial support request. This was deferred to the Alternative Provision Manager by the panel, as the Provider is primarily an Alternative Provision Provider and therefore commissioned directly by secondary schools via the Behavior and Improvement Programmed (BAIP) arrangements.

There were seven placement breakdowns due to Covid-19, this week, of which one was stabilised and one is awaiting a Placement Stability Meeting. Of the remaining five young people; three moved to new placements at reduced costs, one young person's search is ongoing; and the remaining young person moved to a respite carer for the remainder of the notice period, thus currently cost neutral.

There is reduced capacity within supported accommodation / foyers. The lack of capacity will have a financial impact as young people are now unable to move from higher cost resources, as per care plan. This is being scoped.

COMMUNICATIONS

FAQs continue to be distributed weekly to external providers.

Incident report log is distributed daily to senior management.

Regular weekly update request sent to Independent Special Education Placement [ISEP] providers to request latest information on which children are currently attending school and to confirm which schools are open.