

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

<b>SERVICE AREA:</b>	Children's Commissioning CCC & PCC
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### **KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES**

#### **Children in Care (CiC)**

Continuing to liaise closely with strategic providers to review business continuity issues, future vacancy information, placement stability and general concerns and issues; engagement with strategic providers is being expanded to meet the Authorities' needs in respect of recovery planning.

#### **Access to Resources [ART]**

- There are some challenges in sourcing placements for children and young people in both the internal and external market; finding sustainable placements has not returned to pre-Covid-19 levels. However ART team are continuing to successfully identify placements due to existing relationships with strategic providers. There are a number of 'live' complex cases currently too which is adding to the pressure.
- ART have received positive feedback from an IFA due to their focus on resolution and relationship building.
- ISEPS continue to hold meetings with key providers; this has improved communications and timescales. The ISEPS Team are currently working on 103 consultations; whilst placements are being offered, access is Covid-19 dependent. The majority of these 103 cases have packages of tuition/alternative provision in place.
- ISEPS continue to process PPE requests, alongside BAU.
- There has been one placement breakdowns in CCC that was Covid -19 related in the last week and this was an adoption breakdown. There have been no placement breakdowns in PCC as a result of Covid-19

#### **Special Educational Need & Disabilities (SEND)**

End of Life Pathways have now been approved, however they are delayed in finalising as the Clinical Commissioning Group are still finalising their commissioning intentions.

#### **Out of School Tuition (OoST)**

Recent examples of non-engagement from children in receipt of tuition packages appear *not* to be related to the services commissioned, but rather to what is being provided by the supplier due to COVID-19. While the majority of children receiving tuition appear to have engaged with online delivery in lieu of Face to Face provision, for some, due to their individual circumstances it has not proven to work.

We have continued to provide funding to all suppliers during COVID-19, whilst recognising that for some service provision has been significantly diminished. In line with the guidance, we would anticipate that suppliers would work with us to explore options for 'alternative arrangements' of provision. Where this is not possible for the provider, it may be necessary to consider wider options in order to meet the needs as set out in Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

#### **Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES)**

To date, the provider, NRS had not seen the anticipated impact of COVID-19 on services within the community, aside from Business as Usual (BAU), their efforts had been increased to pre-empt any rush in demand. However, they are now seeing the "balance shifting" from BAU, to more COVID-19 specific work. From the meeting on the 14/05/2020, NRS report that during the preceding two months, they had seen 1-2 COVID-19 related reports per-week, to the current volume of 3-4 per day. This represents a significant

changes, and can likely be attributed to hospital releases, incidents within the community setting where patients are self-isolating and incidents where COVID-19 is suspected, but where testing has not confirmed this, or symptoms are not at the level where the patient requires hospitalisation.

## **Children with Disabilities [CWD]**

### **Residential Short Breaks**

- Action for Children (AFC). Residential short breaks continue to function across the 3 homes with reduced capacity (1 at London Rd Section 31, 2 at Havilland Way and 2 at Woodland Lodge). Reducing the numbers of children means that the individual homes can isolate and maintain staffing levels.
- Recovery planning activity remains ongoing in response to the latest guidance. Increased capacity moving to 3 at Woodland Lodge +emergency bed as of 1<sup>st</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> June 4 and emergency bed. Havilland Way progressing to 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Further planning in place to increase to 2 at London Rd. Also looking at reintroducing the Reg. 44 to actual visits rather than virtual-further risk assessment needed.
- There is capacity within AFC to comfortably respond to a failure of another Provider to accommodate up to 2 children (additional staffing maybe required)
- Operations have advised that their risk assessment currently is that children should be able to access school and AFC where appropriate.
- AFC currently has a good supply of PPE.
- Cherry Lodge is reviewing their capacity regularly in response to need; provision is being arranged to minimise contact between members of staff and children and young people.
- Shared Care and High Risk CIN cases continue to be prioritised. There is capacity within Cherry Lodge to provide emergency provision to children with complex needs if required.

### **Domiciliary Care & Community Support Services**

- Actively managing the needs across external and internal providers. All Providers report on a weekly delivery.
- There is some capacity across PCC and CCC; this is being quantified to ensure the capacity is effectively utilised across the system.
- Contracts continue to be paid in full; this is being reviewed, a proposal is being collated regarding a phased approach balancing sustainability for packages and ensuring funding reflects delivery
- Recovery Plan activity remains ongoing; usage data is being gathered to assess where Dom Care packages are being utilised

### **Activity Short Breaks/Community Short Breaks**

- PCC - Circles Network are continuing to offer support flexibly; this ranges from supporting children and young people one to one in the community and hosting Zoom Youth Clubs. A key part of their Recovery Plan proposals includes the renting of an additional venue; the Business Continuity Panel is reviewing the proposals.
- PCC - Vivacity are not currently able to offer their Large Group activities due to social distancing measures. Discussions are ongoing regarding funding of contracts where staff are furloughed.
- CCC – Romsey Mill and University Museum are offering virtual/remote individual/group activities.
- CCC CamPlay and Sports Works are not currently offering a service. Sports works are not requesting payment. CamPlay are exploring options for delivery of holiday clubs. Some CamPlay staff picking up Domiciliary Care sessional work.
- CCC-Recovery Planning discussions are planned in June.

### **Insourcing of CCC Residential Children's homes**

- Remains on track to come under CCC 3/9/20.
- Primary responsibility is sitting with Operational Heads of Service, supported by Transformation.
- Contract management and quality assurance of the incumbent provider is still being managed by Commissioning.

## **Children and Families (C&F)**

The Commissioning team website is nearing completion and should be on line next week. The Commissioning team pages are hosted on Cambridgeshire Insights. They introduce the Commissioning team and the Access to Resources team, list who and how we work and has 2 video case studies from the Circles Network and Centre 33. It also contains information on Covid 19.

Children and Family Services – we continue to liaise on a regular basis with providers of the children and families services to ascertain delivery arrangements and key issues that arise, and are updated on any new initiatives and changes in working practices.

Providers are starting to consider recovery plans, and thinking about options for delivery of services moving forward. As previously reported, some of the children's centres are assessing their buildings to manage social isolating. CPSL MIND have been surveying parents to find out if parents would attend group sessions if they were available. Whilst this survey is ongoing, at this point 60% of respondents have said they would attend a group session, and 40% said they would not.

Parenting Programmes have now moved fully on line, and parents identified through Early Help as needing support, can access the Triple P On line Parenting Programme. This is across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Family Workers contact the parents as they progress through the parenting modules, to support parent's learning and offer practical help on the phone.

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

### **Children in Care (CiC)**

- Fee increase requests are starting to be received, which may result in cost pressures. These are being considered via the business continuity panel. Scoping has been completed to inform the potential financial impact of any uplift requests across CCC & PCC's Children in Care cohort in line with business cases submitted that indicate likely impact on placement budgets.
- Provider concerns are being impacted by social distancing restricting Commissioning's ability to complete provider quality assurance and contract monitoring visits. There is likely to be an increased need for visits as soon as is practicable and safe.

### **Children and Families (C&F)**

The Covid 19 outbreak has highlighted the depth of economic inequalities for families in terms of food poverty. Foodbanks in Cambridge are raising concerns about what happens when food supplies to shielded and vulnerable groups stops, will this demand transfer to foodbanks? Discussions at the Countywide Reference group noted that the Food Poverty Alliance is keen to look at not just tackling food poverty but sustainable food networks. A countywide discussion about this is pending.

### **Access to Resources (ART)**

- The continuation of foster carers self-isolating or not taking placements is further reducing market capacity and exacerbating pressure on in-house foster carers. There still remains some capacity however.
- There is a trend for placements to be under threat of breaking 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 and also due to a change of behaviours in the family home due to changes in routine and structure. However, this is not as significant as in previous weeks. Commissioning and ART meet with The Social Distancing Compliance Team weekly. YOS are working closely with the Police and the compliance team will be visiting those young people identified as not complying with social distancing and patrolling those areas more.

- Some residential providers have advised that due to the delay in Ofsted Registrations, this has not allowed them to open new homes within the time frame they had planned.
- ISEPS schools continue to be partially open for keyworkers and vulnerable children, however some children remain at home with their families. Schools are being innovative in terms of their assessments by offering virtual taster days and interviews.

#### **Children with Disabilities [CWD]**

##### **Emergency Residential Provision/Alternative Provision**

- Workstream is ongoing; operational colleagues working alongside commissioning to assess demand at this stage.
- Interviews are being undertaken for a Registered Manager.
- Redeployment of staff is being reviewed for this project.
- Mobilisation has thus far not progressed as ongoing need is managed by existing provision.

#### **WORKFORCE UPDATE**

The entirety of the commissioning Service is working remotely and from home.

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

##### **Children in Care (CiC)**

- A number of providers have requested fee uplifts due to the impact of Covid-19; these are being reviewed on a case by case basis at the Business Continuity Request Panel.
- Business Cases have been submitted across CWD, CiC and SEND due to the impact of Covid-19, to ensure existing budgets are secured.

##### **Access to Resources (ART)**

- There are some potential increased costs to education transport being unable to fulfil requests (1 CCC case); this is being negotiated by the ISEPS team.
- No reductions this week due to Covid 19, however, one case is being negotiated which may result in a reduction. A number of providers have requested fee uplifts due to the impact of Covid 19 and potentially in lieu of local authorities receiving additional government funding.
- There has been some additional costs incurred due to delays in placement moves, and for one young person who has remained in placement post 18 due to Covid-19 this week.

##### **Children with Disabilities [CWD]**

- Business Cases have been submitted to secure additional funding across PCC & CCC.
- There continues to be an increase in requests for support due to school closures/school offers.
- For PCC, additional funding will be required for One to One Support, Direct Payments, Domiciliary Care and High Level Family Support.
- For CCC, Business Cases have been submitted to support groups and Externally Provided Holiday Clubs to function in line with social distancing rules and increased venue costs etc.

The recovery plans for all CWD areas will be captured within the Children's Commissioning Recovery Plan; capacity is increasing in response to need, many providers are ensuring models of provision evolve to ensure adherence to Covid-19 guidelines.

#### **RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)**

##### **Children in Care (CiC)**

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 and provision for children and young people, and mechanisms to be employed to increase access to suitable provision options. The Business Continuity Panel will remain in situ in order to track and progress recovery planning.

#### **Children and Families (C&F)**

Children and Families services have started to reflect and capture their learning from changes in practices as a result of Covid19. They are seeing opportunities to reshape and improve services for example Young carers and mental health support services are looking at keeping the option of online support but they are discovering a number of young people who do not have access to digital data or have to share a phone with the family and therefore prefer face to face contact.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Children in Care (CiC)**

FAQs continue to be distributed weekly to external providers and the incident report log is distributed daily to senior management. A letter has been shared with Providers acknowledging 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.

#### **Children and Families (C&F)**

Maintaining regular contact with providers to pick up any issues that are arising. This week information has been circulated to appropriate provider's information on the bereavement support across the county.