

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT REPORT – COVID-19 AND KEY SERVICE UPDATES

SERVICE AREAS:	Commissioning
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Part 1 - COVID-19

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

Vaccinations

The Covid-19 Vaccination Programme is now well underway in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and will continue throughout the current national lockdown.

We are working incredibly hard to open up additional vaccination sites over the coming days and weeks to expand the number of vaccination sites and vaccination appointments we have available across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The following sites are live and delivering vaccinations to those aged over 80, care home workers and we are starting to expand provision to frontline health and care staff:

Peterborough City Hospital

Addenbrooke's Hospital

Ely South and Ely North Primary Care Networks – with practices in Ely, Soham, Haddenham, Burwell and Littleport

Wisbech PCN – covering the following practices: Clarkson Surgery, North Brink Practice, Parsons Drive Surgery and Trinity Surgery

South Peterborough – covering the following practices: Oundle Medical Practice, New Queen Street & Stanground Surgeries, and Yaxley

Lakeside St Neots – covering the following practices: Cedar House Practice, Dumbelton Medical Practice, St Neots Health Centre and Eaton Socon Health Centre

A number of other locations across the area are due to open next week. We will also be starting to vaccinate the top priority JCVI group - Care Homes residents and staff - in their own Care Homes as of this week.

We have worked closely with the CCG and providers to ensure that care home staff are able to access a range of vaccination clinics, encouraging accessibility.

Delivery of second dose National guidance from the UK's Chief Medical Officers now recommends that the second dose for both PfizerBioNTech and OxfordAstraZeneca vaccines can be delivered up to 12 weeks after the first vaccination. Based on this new advice, people who originally had their second dose vaccination appointment booked in earlier are being contacted to reschedule.

We are working closely with the CCG to prioritise front line social care workers, as the vaccine is being rolled out to cohort 2 in line with the national guidance.

Adults Commissioning

Potential Additional Funding - The Local Government Association's Care and Health Improvement Programme has been funded to provide support for the Shared Outcomes Fund in both 20/21 and 21/22. There will be external support to meet help sites implement and learn from 'out of hospital models' they are putting in place for people experiencing homelessness – Working in partnership with District Councils. We have been notified that our funding bid has been successful for 20/21 and 21/22 funding.

Impact: More operational expertise and capacity to support the management of those who are homeless or at risk of become homeless on discharge from hospital or to avoid admission

Mental Health – NHSE have released some winter pressure monies to facilitate and support hospital discharge for the mental health cohort – one off funding of c.£50k. The proposal focused on commissioning alternative accommodation to support timely discharge and the use of existing floating support provision to expand capacity to undertaken deep cleans etc. to enable timely transfer from hospital. Proposal was submitted on 15th Dec – awaiting outcome.

Childrens Commissioning

Updates to COVID guidance for Children’s Social Care Settings –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe#residential>

In particular, note the following updates –

- Section 6 – Where necessary, wear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
 - o Use of face masks rather than face coverings when caring for someone with symptoms of coronavirus
- Section 8 - What care should be taken in residential settings, including residential schools, residential special schools and children’s homes?
 - o the [isolation guidance for residential settings](#) should be followed
- Local restrictions tiers (and exceptions)
 - o The exceptions across all tiers allow for contact between birth parents and children in care, as well as between siblings in care.

Covid Tests available for Residential Children’s Homes - <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/covid-19-test-update-registered-childrens-homes/>

Above comms shared with all providers

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Brokerage & Contracts

Growing pressures from acutes due to COVID positive numbers.

Growing prevalence of outbreaks with a new pattern of infection. Considerable support needed for providers on a day-to-day basis is being offered to support.

Adults Commissioning

- 1. COVID Isolation Beds for people who are Covid Positive on discharge from hospital and purposeful wanders:** There is a requirement to identify a designated care home which can be inspected by CQC by the end of October. A PIN was issued to the market and a good response received. COVID Positive Beds has been approved at CCG Governing Body. The CCG have now approved the commissioning of a number of COVID Negative Beds and contracts are in the process of being drafted.
- 2. LD/MH Crisis and Isolation Beds:** Capacity covering the above and community crisis for LD and MH has also been identified – Approved at CCG Governing Body and being implemented.
- 3. Infection Control Fund:** Recommendation has been approved at Adults Committee and by Officer Decision Notice. The first instalment has been paid to compliant providers, with the second instalment being processed throughout January.

Childrens Commissioning

Tier-4 lockdown in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (and otherwise more nationally) may impact placement stability.

MOU with Public Health & Public Health England (PHE) regarding managing Covid-19 outbreaks in Residential Children's Homes. Risk Assessment from PHE shared with Commissioning, and implemented in those settings where a Covid-19 Outbreak is reported.

Covid-19 outbreaks in externally commissioned provisions have increased in frequency in December. Commissioning have regular meetings with Public Health and have communicated incident reporting processes with providers.

Reduction in capacity within in house fostering (CCC), due in part to carers transferring out to Independent Fostering Agencies. Previously, in house saw a number of carers shielding due to health related concerns; currently it is not known if this is a repeating challenge. Access to Resources are liaising with in house fostering to explore.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Brokerage & Contracts

There is a need for us to review all activity against the pressures of COVID outbreaks.

Adults Commissioning

- **Placed Based Commissioning** – Work has been undertaken with local providers, Think Communities, Operations, District and Parish Councils and Contracts and Brokerage to scope a pilot for placed based commissioning of homecare as well as prevention and early intervention. A proposed concept has been co-produced and a business case which outlines resource required to progress this drafted. Due to come to JMT for approval on 3rd December before being taken to Adults Committee and General Purposes Committee in January 2021.
- **Discharge to Assess and Interim Bed Provision** – current approach to D2A Bed provision outlined in previous highlight reports due to expire with the guidance in March 2021. Current LA Contracts also need to be recommissioned by November 2021. The CCG have confirmed appetite to jointly commission this provision, but are yet to allocate a lead to working with the LA to progress this.

Childrens Commissioning

None – current spike in Covid related incidences suggests children in care commissioning have returned to a state of 'response'.

Commissioning & Access to Resources to revisit strategic provider meetings (Independent Fostering Agencies, Residential Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation providers), to support with identifying capacity in the market.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Brokerage & Contracts

Reviewing COVID capacity

Adults Commissioning

COVID Negative Beds approved at CCG Governing Body for all client groups

NEW COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Brokerage & Contracts

- Individual costs for service users to manage isolation now approved and process in place
- Capacity for purposeful walkers now commissioned

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Brokerage & Contracts

- We currently only have 1 member of staff off, sickness levels are very low. However, the volume of work against capacity is significant as a result of COVID system pressures in both acutes and providers.

Childrens Commissioning

- Some concerns from staff that school closures (due to teaching staff declining to work) will impact on child care arrangements.

COMMUNICATIONS

Brokerage & Contracts

- Working with CCG and CCC comms to manage mass vaccs communication
- Routine lines of communication are open and active with providers

Childrens Commissioning

- Covid Guidance and reporting processes shared with providers.

Part 2 – BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY

KEY SERVICE UPDATES – INTERNAL / EXTERNAL

Brokerage & Contracts

- Block contract tenders are in the award phase although delayed by 2-weeks, will be completed this month
- Provider monitoring is in the main reactive to rising flags (eg notifications of concern, whistle blowers and complaints)
- Interim beds and 'hancock' block car analysis is underway in readiness for re commissioning

Adults Commissioning

1. Long Term Care Team

- Investment in community catalyst pilot in the process of being awarded
- Care Home Block Bed Tender – due to be awarded 1st Feb 2021
- A number of business cases have been approved at JMT for investment in commissioning and programme resource to drive forward care suites and placed based commissioning models – Adults Committee and GPC due to take decision in Jan 2021
- OP Accommodation needs assessment drafted and commissioning intentions are now being developed

2. Prevention Early Intervention

- OT Section 75 – being drawn up for March 2021 and robust governance structures have been established
- Housing Related Support Strategy approved at Adults Committee in December 2020. Procurement recommendation due to be taken in March 2021.
- EIP Framework – Tender launched in December 2020
- Day Services across OP and LD - Mobilised at reduced capacity and work to develop a future model has commenced.

3. Learning Disabilities

- In depth review of the Housing Strategy, and plan/approach for current development projects is being undertaken with a view of refining and approving both the approach and oversight of activities
- Both S75 agreements for LD need to be agreed and finalise with the CCG for 2021/22

Childrens Commissioning

- Children's External Placements Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) - 29 successful providers awarded on to the DPS following evaluations of Rounds 4 and 5.

- Approval by Joint Commissioning Board to develop tendering documents for Family Support Services Framework. Current timescales suggest 'go live' date of July 2021.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Adults Commissioning

- Cost Pressure for Day Services needs to be incorporated into budget planning for 2021/22. It will be based on an assumption that existing infection control measures continue resulting in a reduction in capacity and alternative care packages being required at an additional cost.
- The risk share for the CCC LD S75 needs to be agreed for the next financial year, with a plan to address the need to undertake an extensive review of care packages in the longer term.

Childrens Commissioning

Spike in residential placements and requests for additional support (CCC & PCC) presents risk of additional pressure on external placements budgets.

At 21/12/2020 CCC external placements budget forecasted £573k overspend (£78k of which is attributable to Covid).

At 30/11/2020 PCC external placements budget forecasted £261k overspend. A further £630k is attributed to Covid.

UPCOMING ISSUES & HORIZON SCANNING AREAS

Adults Commissioning

- **LD Service Development within Burwell** – CCC land being used for a new TCP cohort development. This was put on hold due to COVID so is behind on original timescales. Approach has been reviewed and a new project plan is in development which addresses previous gaps and project management support had been identified. There are a significant number of key decisions about funding and models of operation which need to be made over the next few months, which will be bought forward for governance oversight. The approach has no approval of CN&I to use the site yet and planning permission will be required and several risks with this site mean it will not be straight forward. There is considerable local scrutiny of this project from a variety of stakeholders - a communications plan is a key tool to be developed. Meeting scheduled in January 2021 to agree a way forward.

Childrens Commissioning

- Supported Accommodation Framework due for extension – Paper requesting approval to extend to be with HC 04/01/21, prior to OH Management Meeting & Joint Commissioning Board (Jan 2021).
- Transformation / Social Care initiative – temporary accommodation for care leavers. Currently unclear how this project will be funded (Housing Benefit and Corporate Parenting budgets are being discussed).