

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT REPORT – COVID-19 AND KEY SERVICE UPDATES

SERVICE AREAS:	Adults and Safeguarding
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Part 1 - COVID-19

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

- Designated settings guidance: amendment – Section 3.15-3.19 of the designated settings guidance, relating to managing capacity of designated settings, has recently been revised.
- Information to support the COVID-19 vaccination of Social Care Workers DHSC have written the attached letters to local authorities and care providers confirming that from 11 February health and workers will be able to book their first vaccination appointment via the National Booking System,
- Discharge funding letter and hospice funding. This letter from Matthew Winn, Director of Community Health, NHS England and NHS Improvement, provided an update to health and social care systems on funding of post-discharge support for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year.
- The funding arrangements for bed and community care capacity in the hospice sector, was updated on 09 February.
- Health and Care White Paper - The Government has published its Health and Care White Paper, 'Working together to improve health and social care for all', setting out legislative proposals for a Health and Care Bill to join up health and care services and embed lessons learned from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Standard operating procedure for vaccination of unpaid carers – update At the end of last week, there was a change to the PHE Green Book definition in relation to unpaid carers, linking eligibility more closely to the clinical risk of COVID-19 for the person being cared for. Work is in progress to urgently consider the implications of this.
- Care home residents to be allowed one visitor as part of cautious easing of lockdown - Every resident will be allowed one regular indoor visitor from 8 March. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-home-residents-to-be-allowed-one-visitor-as-part-of-cautious-easing-of-lockdown>
- New care home visiting guidance - New Guidance has been issued to support changes to visiting in care home arrangements, which are due to start on Monday 08 March. In essence, there will be two key changes – Single Named Visitor and Essential Care Giver.
- Vaccination of clinically vulnerable and people 65 to 69. NHS England has written to PCN-led and Community Pharmacy-led Local Vaccination Sites asking them to focus on vaccinating cohort six from Monday 15 February 2021. JCVI priority Cohort 6 includes which includes a wider group of people at higher clinical risk, including carers and young adults in residential settings.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) lateral flow testing of visitors in care homes updated - Sets out how care homes and visitors can prepare for visitor testing with lateral flow devices (LFDs). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-lateral-flow-testing-of-visitors-in-care-homes>
- Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund: round 2 updated - Sets out the infection control measures that the new infection control fund will support, including information on the distribution of funds and reporting requirements. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-infection-control-fund-round-2>
- Workforce Capacity Fund for adult social care - Information for local authorities and adult social care providers on the £120 million Workforce Capacity Fund during coronavirus (COVID-19). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workforce-capacity-fund-for-adult-social-care>

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

- Responding to the removal of 6 weeks free care at point of discharge with effect from 31/3/21 has required work with Commissioning and NHS colleagues to prepare return to BAU
- Working closely with the CCG to ensure good vaccine availability and uptake for social care workforce
- Supporting the targeting of vaccinations to carers by submitted a nationally specified data set to DHSC. Data has been extracted, now awaiting the full guidance on how to submit.
- As staff members have spent a significant period of time working remotely, we have started to see an increasing number of technical issues with laptops etc which is difficult to accommodate quickly, either by replacement, repair of emergency allocation office space.
- Managing the office space to ensure social distancing and remote working continues to be challenging
- All Early Help and long-term services are experiencing increased demand and expect this to increase as lock down restriction reduce
- Some complex cases are starting to emerge
- Demand for lifeline and for urgent installations has been higher than forecasted as pressure on other services continues – 643 to date 20/21
- Reablement- adapting to requirements re infection control and other requirements continues to present added challenges to ensuring an efficient service. We still have low rate of positive testing in staff although staff are working with a high percentage of Covid positive service users. Good use of PPE / vaccines has meant very low staff infection rate zero in most areas.
- Increased waiting lists in LDP health element particularly in Psychology and OT. This is related to both capacity and that some interventions cannot be completed remotely and are not considered to present high risk and are therefore on hold but this is building up a demand that will need to be managed post lockdown / when restrictions lift
- CQC transitional monitoring meeting for LDP teams took place on 23rd of February we are expecting feedback in a couple of weeks. This is not a rated inspection
- CQC have carried out an infection control inspection at Russell Street and we have received a very positive draft report. This service had an outbreak just before Christmas which was well contained.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

- In Peterborough the Guide To Independent Living has been distributed to older people receiving their vaccinations in the hubs.
- Working with the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue to re-establish Safe and Well visits by promoting targeted referrals with initial telephone triage.
- Day services are starting to plan to expand attendance again in line with the government roadmap,

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Reablement:

- Review of PPE guidance and tightening of times Support Workers can attend offices to prevent infection
- Office based staff to work from home, keeping office staff levels to minimum
- Staff undergo vaccination programme

Home Service Delivery Model PCC:

- The schedule of rates (for the DFGs and Repairs Assistance) extension has been agreed for 1/1/22 to 31/12/2023.
- The Housing Related Support grants for 21/22 has been agreed via Cabinet Member Decision Notice and contracts are being issued

Disability Social Care 0-25 Service:

- Social Work Teams have continued to visit virtually, with the exception of face-to-face visits for child protection cases, or those at risk of placement breakdown / with safeguarding concerns. However, following the recent government announcement about children returning to full-time education by 8th March, we are planning to reintroduce face-to-face meetings in relation to all cases throughout March.
- Our CSS and Camplay staff are having weekly Covid tests.

NEW COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- Areas of increased spend in relation to Covid continue to be claimed against MHCLG grant
- Work underway to analyse data about impact of Covid on ASC population and spend and possible latent demand that is ahead of us

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

- Reablement - working across two 'worlds' i.e. part of the team seeing new and hospital discharge service users only with the rest of the team seeing longer term service users to maximise safety of vulnerable staff makes the impact of absence greater and requires a lot of rescheduling. It impacts on the number of service users that can be worked with at any time.
- Staffing capacity in LD teams remains an issue due to long term sickness, maternity leave, annual leave being used before year end and in one area a couple of HR investigations. Active recruitment underway for vacant health and social care posts some successful but some are difficult to recruit to and out to third advert.
- Additional staff in LD in-house services are now receiving shielding letters. This is presenting issues around cover of one 24-hour service which we are working to address.

COMMUNICATIONS

- March is a busy month for social work practice with Social Work Week (8-12 March) coming up and World Social Work Day (16 March). In addition, we are going to celebrate social work success throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Anyone can make a nomination about any member of staff currently employed in Adult Social Care in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This just needs to be a brief email with 'Social Care Star Nomination' or 'Business Support Officer Star Nomination' in the subject header and sent to adults.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk stating why you wish to nominate the person.
- Second Cohort: Social Work Degree Apprenticeships. We are pleased to announce that we will be partnering with Anglia Ruskin University for the second cohort of Social Work Degree Apprenticeships, starting in September 2021.
- Cambridgeshire updated Guide to Independent Living is being widely distributed during February and March.

Part 2 – BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY

KEY SERVICE UPDATES – INTERNAL / EXTERNAL

- We are working closely with our colleagues from Pinpoint in relation to Preparation for Adulthood, and have regular meetings booked in the coordinate the PFA activity. This will be fed into the SEND Strategy workstreams.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Work underway to ensure Adults and Safeguarding can manage effectively within the budget allocated and assumptions re demand management
- Specific challenges in relation to the savings assumptions that will be delivered by implementation of Total Mobile by Reablement in light of the changed way that reablement has had to organise itself to meet Covid infection control guidance.

UPCOMING ISSUES & HORIZON SCANNING AREAS

Preparing for the introduction of a national assurance process for ASC – introduced by the White Paper