



Hampshire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board
16 October 2020



Children and Families



Stuart Ashley



1. Our approach

- Phases, oversight and data

2. What we did

- Children in Care, Foster Carers and Residential
- Partners
- What next?

3. Health Assessments

3. Education update

- GCSE and A Levels

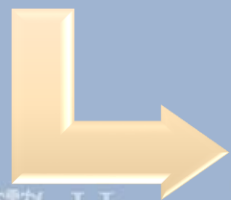
Our approach over the last few months:

As part of our contingency planning we developed a phased approach, with each phase based on having fewer staff available to work should the situation worsen

Phase 1

Business as usual but doing it differently

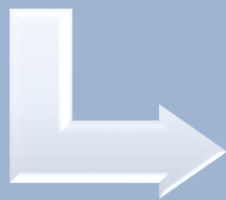
- Statutory timescales for visits and meetings remain the same
- Using technology to ensure we see children and families through digital means i.e. WhatsApp, Teams
- Face to face visits undertaken where we know our staff can safely socially distance themselves, in relation to urgent child protection work
- Guidance provided for visits, meetings (with children and professionals), training, events etc



Phase 2

Pre-emptive planning for worse case scenario

- Expressions of interest from staff willing to work in the business-critical services*
- Staff drafted in from the Residential Children's Homes to ensure a minimum staffing levels at Swanwick
- 2 homes closed meaning that in the event of an unforeseen emergency there was additional resource to be deployed*
- CRT/MASH – no essential work held back to enable prioritisation
- District teams – highest risk children and families identified



Phase 3

Managing the worse case scenario

- Redistribution of staff available to work
- Delivery of services reduced to highest risk cases
- Implementing DfE flexibility of statutory requirements

We remained in Phase 1 throughout lockdown and actioned some elements of Phase 2

Measure		Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Total Referrals		2825	3096	3178	3649	2871	2671	3073	4007	3949	3258
No of Referrals progressed to Assessment		1563	1602	1681	2000	1556	1180	1411	1888	1936	1710
Assessments completed (within 45 working days of referral)	Number	1097	1045	1003	1364	1100	1112	1007	1201	1501	1147
	Timeliness	92.3%	93.1%	90.4%	94.1%	88.7%	90.3%	93.0%	95.8%	96.3%	96.1%
ICPCs		91	104	129	188	100	160	162	140	164	101
RCPCs		285	303	269	260	109	194	244	276	329	137

Across June and Aug 2020, we completed 30211 visits (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, LC)

	% of Visits Undertaken Virtually	% of Visits Undertaken in Person
April	53%	47%
May	45%	55%
June	39%	61%
July	33%	67%
August	27%	73%

Whilst there was some reduction in referrals and assessments during April, by the end of May we were back to normal levels and since June have been 15 to 20% above normal

We have seen an increase of c140 children subject to a Child Protection Plan since April. The level of complexity within families that we are assessing has increased as a result of needs being magnified by COVID

Vulnerable children attending school

A feature of our response to Covid 19 has been the excellent joint working between children's social care and education, schools and colleges to ensure as many vulnerable children as possible were able to attend school

- Identification of vulnerable children cohort
- Children's Social Care visits included discussion on school attendance and support to attend
- Risks assessments completed on every vulnerable child not attending school
- Impact- by end of term 53% of vulnerable children attending school, including 57% of those subject to child protection planning and 57% of children in care.



Partners

We are continuing with constant dialogue with our partners

- Business as usual meetings have been unchanged
- Daily contact between Assistant Director and Head of Public Protection (the police) if needed
- We are proactively sharing our important updates
- Shared high risk cases with police and vice versa to focus on right children
- We are sharing updates from partners with our staff
- Weekly meetings with health partners



UASC

- Hampshire have been supporting Kent County Council with the management of UASC arriving into the Port of Dover
- We have offered daily support with staff travelling to Dover to accept responsibility for young people on behalf of other local authorities in the country. This support has been well received by Kent, The National Transfer Scheme and the Home Office.
- The UASC situation continues to be challenging and will continue to need a national response. On that point ADCS are lobbying hard for regulations to change to mandate new arrivals being allocated nationally to all LAs rather than leaving it to volunteer LAs in a region



Health Assessments



Hampshire
County Council

- All Initial Health Assessment (the assessment required within 20 days of entry to care) were completed by a virtual assessment on the telephone or via video links. In some highly vulnerable children's cases, a face to face assessment at an offsite (not hospital) facility was arranged.
- Review Health Assessments were individually risk assessed and "paused" if they did not reach a high risk level to enable the completion of the Initial Health Assessments. As many Review Health Assessments as possible have continued to be delivered virtually to prevent long delays.
- As we move forward acknowledging that we still remain within a pandemic environment, we are looking to restore as much to near normal the health interventions for Children in Care and looking at alternative methods for future delivery of services – this will be influenced by feedback from those assessments completed in the virtually.
- A Rapid Review Event was held in September with the aim to improve the delivery and consider the future vision around a health pathway for Children in Care. The action plan is being lead by a specialist transformational practice project manager to ensure the action plan is driven and coordinated



Hampshire
County Council

Providing an outstanding service to children and families





It's a new year,
It's the start of "our" fireworks,
After the song "we don't have to dance" he launches,
into me,
He presses closer,
Shrieking and yelling
Then... an explosion of
Glass
He raises his
hand,
My eyes stay fixed on the clock
Willing each second to pass
1 o'c
2 o'c



Activity during lockdown

Children and Families Care Leavers Podcast Ep 1 – Lockdown Legends



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up-rMnyMPZI&feature=youtu.be>



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

What next:

As the situation evolves we must continue working in an agile and responsive way

- **Seeing increasing demand: both referrals-which have remained high over the summer period and are likely to increase as the schools return and for new placements for children coming into care**
- 90-95% of visits now face to face
- Re-establishing family time (contact) for children in care and their families, safely re-opening 'Covid Safe' Family Centre's when and where appropriate.
- Reviewing building use-incremental increase based on maintaining social distancing, consideration of rotas for staff
- Reporting and monitoring to continue daily/weekly - an important role in assessing impact and analysing areas of need so we can deploy resources effectively
- Establishing hybrid meetings - so parents can attend in person, with virtual attendance from some partner agencies





Education

Nicola Blake

GCSE and A Levels

the virtual school had a key role in relation to children in care

Well documented, last minute changes to grading system

Careers Service was open, guiding students and parents

Schools/colleges worked hard to ensure students were well supported

Post 16 and Post 18 pathways secure

Working on September guarantee – low NEET figures



Hampshire

GCSE Exam
Results Day
Information

Thursday
20 August
2020



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council

Providing an outstanding service to children and families



What next:

Regular contact with school leaders, services back out in schools

Relentless focus on vulnerable students – persistent absence

Promotion of evidenced based, catch up strategies and recovery curriculum

Roll out of well-being programme



Education
Endowment
Foundation

