

Richmond SEND Partnership Board COVID meeting 25 March 2020

Attendees: Ian Dodds, Ashley Whittaker, Alex Hardy, Alison Danks, Alison Stewart, Charis Penfold, Claire Richmond, Grace Over, Heather Mathew, Ian Hutchings, Ivan Pryce, Jessica Thom, Jonathan Rourke, Laura Turner, Nigel Evason, Cllr Penny Frost, Sara Doyle, Tracey Mabbs,

Team	Comments	Worries	Actions
Children and young people (Grace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - face to face work stopped and staying in touch via phone & video. - Young People's Hub on Local Offer being developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many CYP with SEND lack (peer) support networks - who is picking up those at uni, NEET, now not working / apprenticeships terminated etc? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All those wanting help with Easy Read materials email Grace - Charis to speak to Ann Mason re those on apprenticeships and NEET etc and share opportunities for them to access support via FAQs on Local Offer.
Parents and carers (Claire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks to all who are working so hard - PCF launch event postponed - PCF launching website asap - Very useful sharing of info e.g from Alison Stewart and on Local Offer - Helpful communications with HRCH re support until 3 April, after which support may cease. Realism is needed about what can be achieved at home, and preservation of the current state may need to be the focus rather than advances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - particularly challenging time for families of children with SEND, supporting additional vulnerabilities at home - particular need re single parents with SEND child and siblings e.g logistics of attending medical appointments - clarity on use of Direct Payments would be helpful - although materials on Local Offer are good, few parents use the Local Offer - materials on emotional regulation are needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heather M to share info re Council's Community Hub and potential access to additional support via volunteer programme - Ashley to add details of Council Community Hub to Local Offer FAQs - Ashley to add link to new Direct Payments policy to Local Offer FAQs when available and share with all for onward circulation - All to circulate link to Local Offer website section on Covid to their networks (and add to email signature?). https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/covid-19-updates-and-resources - All to encourage families and schools to reach out to therapy provider asap to seek advice / support prior to changes to service. - Ashley to investigate and share resources re emotional regulation - Charis to flag LO resources on daily briefing to schools - Ian D to ask all AfC staff to add Local Offer resources link to their email signature.

<p>Voluntary Sector (Alex, Jonathan, Laura)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RUILS now deliver only via phone and online etc, and sitting / befriending service stopped. Enquiries reduced. - SENDIAS staff all working at home - MENCAP delivering telephone befriending and door step drops. Are part of Richmond's Community Hub and leading on Learning Disability. To include families of children with SEND. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - next steps for residential settings - families not accessing technology - questions re changes to LA statutory duties eg EHCP and annual review timelines - families coping with SEND children at home - parents and carers with their own health needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ashley to consider how resources available on line can be made available in hard copy / easy read - Ashley to circulate changes to EHCP / Annual Review process when released - Alex and Claire to discuss support that may be available for vulnerable families including single parents - All to signpost families (8+ years) to Laura (laura@richmondmencap.org.uk) for more information on what might be available via Mencap or elsewhere via Hub.
<p>SEND Team / EHCP process (Charis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waiting for new gov guidance on process - online / phone discussions ongoing including appeals - Clear guidance has been issued by both DfE and AfC on residential provision and all independent and residential placements are being tracked under a new process in order to manage risk 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charis to ask Sarah Herbert to flag Local Offer resources in her weekly comms with SENCOs.
<p>Early Years, schools and colleges (Charis, Tracey, Ian H, Ivan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Huge thanks to all early years providers, schools and college for the vital and difficult role they are playing. What they are delivering is truly amazing. Juggling their own staff teams and individual situations of families and children. - Number of children attending is decreasing but may increase again as home situations become more challenging, and families come out of self isolation. Some schools offering provision over Easter holidays (e.g Sheen Mount) and other not (e.g special) with operating model being worked on. - Lots of materials being shared with children and young people and families. May move to school hub model but in some areas schools currently keen to all stay open. - some schools are staying open over Easter bank holiday weekend which is amazing. - Richmond College is closed. They have checked in with EHCP young people and offering weekly online support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and young people with more severe needs e.g. at Strathmore unable to adhere to 2m / hygiene needed. - Expectations of a minority of parents about what is realistic for schools to deliver in terms of the content of an EHCP in the current context (eg if therapy provision stopped) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ian D and Charis to agree communication about the need for two way "reasonableness" about what aspects of an EHCP can be delivered by schools in the current unprecedented circumstances. To be shared and included in FAQs.
<p>Short</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim is to continue with short breaks, often 1:1 rather than 		

breaks and therapies (Alison D)	<p>groups. Working with special schools and providers to identify most vulnerable families. Staffing currently OK. aiming to grow workforce by redeploying staff from elsewhere. Some families are withdrawing children. Aiming to identify key worker for all to keep in regular contact with those not attending. For o/n short breaks aim is to keep Croft Cottage open, although may need to be one child at a time. Aim to keep Crofters open.</p> <p>- On therapies, HRCH has sent out info and AfC OT still operating and also aiming to send out packs to families.</p>		
CCG (Alison S, Nigel)	<p>- Need to manage expectations with families about what can be achieved via remote therapy support.</p> <p>- On mental health Kooth being made available to all students.</p> <p>- Specific focus on continuing care, some choosing not to send to school</p> <p>- all NHS staff on watch to move to incident control function (Alison Stewart moving on Thursday)</p>		<p>- Nigel to advertise how children and young people can access Kooth (www.kooth.com/)</p> <p>- All to use Nigel as point of contact re any concerns with health services via Nigel.Evason@swlondon.nhs.uk</p>
Social Care (Sara, Jess)	<p>- Prioritising children who need to be physically seen. Also using online tech to check in with others with many young people embracing in very positive way.</p> <p>- In current scenario, flexibility is key eg use of direct payments.</p> <p>- SPA is business as usual. In family support all families being risk scored. Mostly remote support with some physical visits. Remote / phone check ins take less time than physical so opportunity to do more. Aim is to manage / keep as low as possible escalation to statutory services. Planning for escalation in issues arising within families as has been reported in other lockdown countries.</p>	<p>- Some families are struggling to manage their children at home, eg ASD. short breaks is / will be key.</p> <p>- single parents are a vulnerable group</p> <p>- some young people are struggling to understand the need for reducing the chance of infection / social distancing.</p>	<p>- All to reinforce importance of social distancing to children and young people when safe and appropriate to do so.</p>
Adults (Ian D)			<p>All to email Ashley with questions / concerns about Adult Services and he will signpost etc.</p>