



Cumbria County Council
**Children's Covid Response
and Recovery Update**

Introduction

Covid Response and Recovery Priorities across the Children's System

- Schools
- Social Workers in Schools (SWIS)
- SEND
- Social Care and Safeguarding
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- EH and Think Family
- The next 3 to 6 months

Schools

- Attendance – stabilising around 11%
- Keyworker – education requests email in place (low take up)
- Free School Meals – Vouchers in place
- Laptops/devices — CASL working with locality basis and collating intel from schools – different ways of funding across the county.
- Exams and testing – exams ‘cancelled’ standardised teacher assessment
- LFT – licensing and pilots

Professional Team Around the School

Who we are...
Senior Access and
Inclusion Officer

Principles

Work together to coordinate a range of services to ensure the needs of children and families are met.
To support schools to coordinate a plan to meet the child and family's needs.
Prioritise support avoid duplication.
To provide advice and consultation where appropriate
Statutory processes will still need to be followed.



Who we are...
Early Help Officers

Who we are...
Focus Family
Officers

Who we are...
Education Health Care
Plan Coordinator

Who we are...
Learning Improvement
Service

Who we are...
Educational
Psychologist

Who we are...
Targeted Youth Support

Who we are...
Children and Young
Persons Officer
(Police)

Who we are...
MyTime Contact

Who we are...
5-19 Public Health
Team Clinical Lead

Who we are...
Child and Family
Support 0-19

If you are concerned about a child

Sources of Support and Signposting

In Cumbria all children will be a part of a strong family network living in a resilient community being happy and healthy and able to succeed with a sense of pride

What is the Professional Team Around the School?

- Families getting support when they need it
- Each individual school/cluster has a group of professionals working collaboratively who support them in a child focused way
- No wrong door
- Preventing schools from becoming overwhelmed

Social Workers in Schools (SWIS)

- Team Manager and 8 social workers are in post and allocated to schools
- Richard Rose Morton Academy; Solway & Beacon Hill; Netherhall; St Joseph's, Workington; St Benedict's, Whitehaven; Millom; Dowdales; St Bernard's
- Positive feedback from schools

SEND

- Virtual support for schools and settings remains strong
- Work with children and young people is ongoing from all teams across the Inclusion service
- Progression of assessments continues for individual pupils within statutory timeframes
- Special schools remain open and work closely with the SEND team to support pupils
- Continued progress of the SEND Improvement Programme

Social Care and Safeguarding

- Maintaining business as usual
- Children, YP and families still being seen face to face in their own homes with appropriate risk assessment and PPE
- Family time continues with updated risk assessment
- Placement sufficiency is becoming even more challenging
- Increased anxiety within the workforce and more staffing sickness
- Partners continue to hold fortnightly COVID business continuity meetings under the CSCP

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

- For children and adolescents with mental health needs, closures mean a lack of access to the resources they usually have through schools and makes in-reach treatment activities more challenging
- School routines are important coping mechanisms for young people with mental health issues.
- Children with special education needs, such as those with autism spectrum disorder, are also at risk of worsening outcomes.
- College users can become stressed dormitory evacuations and cancellation of anticipated events such as graduation ceremonies.
- Social distancing measures can result in social isolation in an abusive home, with abuse likely exacerbated during this time of economic uncertainty and stress.
- Not much is known about the long-term mental health effects of large-scale disease outbreaks on children and adolescents.

Impact on Specialist Services

- Not currently experiencing a significant increase in referrals - anticipating the complexity of presentations to increase across a range of diagnosis.
- Referrals - pattern of dipping during full lockdown and surging when restrictions are lifted, reflecting CYP access to school.
- Mental health services are operating as business as usual, we increased the rollout and expansion of Digital Mental Health Services for young people while maintaining risk assessed face to face appointments

Impact on MyTime

- Parental concerns and anxiety – this often outweighs that of the CYP, in response to this MyTime are putting together parental online sessions
- MyTime are noticing more referrals either due to or including reference to eating disorders or emerging eating disorders
- The number of missed / cancelled appointments – it is always a challenge to offer appropriate flexibility and maintain efficient service delivery and whilst this has always been a challenge, current circumstances do make this more of an issue.

EH and Think Family

- Launch of Early Help strategy in February - Young Perspectives Board developing a young person's version of the strategy
- Think Family Support Panels for under 5's now operational
- All 6 Children's Trust Board locality partnerships have Early Help as a priority.
- Funding for school holiday activities – planning taking place
- Review of Early Help Panels being undertaken
- Development of early help recording module underway
- CCC early help strategic leads regularly meet with commissioned 0-19 providers

The next 3-6 months

- EWB and MH concerns and issues
- Schools – further developments
- Children and Young People’s Plan review through the Children’s Trust Board
- Continual preparation for external reviews and inspections
- Recovery Strategy developments

Any questions?

