
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 29th June, 2020

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Children's Services COVID-19 Update

Purpose

1. This report is compiled to update members of the current position, challenges and risks within children's services in respect of the following areas:-
 - Critical Services Activity during COVID-19
 - Safeguarding vulnerable children
 - Improvement Board update
 - Schools update including – extending the school offer to pupils in year 6: Reception and years 10 and 12
 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND update)

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:-
 - Members note the contents of the report.
 - Members comment on and approve the continuing focus of work across the Directorate to improve the quality of practice.
 - Members recognise the continued work of all staff within the Directorate to ensure that children are supported through the Pandemic, subsequent lockdown restrictions and emerging recovery planning.
 - Members acknowledge the ongoing challenges facing the service to achieve the continuous improvement to ensure good and outstanding services for all children.

Background

3. Critical Services Activity

We continue to operate a business as usual service except for where it is not safe to visit a family home in line with public health guidance and our COVID-19 strategy. We know our most vulnerable children and there are tracking mechanisms in place to monitor their progress and safeguard them. As part of our ongoing risk assessment cases are Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rated on a weekly basis and staff use the Directors "Need to Know" notification system for high risk cases.

Staffing levels have remained relatively stable across the service, and I continue to be impressed by the commitment and dedication of our social workers and support staff.

Dudley's Early Help system remains in operation having to adapt dynamically during the COVID-19 pandemic with all five Family Centre's, serving the borough, closing to the public on 24th March 2020, following the lockdown arrangements. Multi-Agency Action Meetings have continued using technology during this period, with partners contributing well in this format. During this period telephone and technology based contact with families has been the focus for early help staff, from the 24th March through to the 15th April 2020.

The arrival of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) enabled the service to structure around a RAG rating system for families, (reviewed weekly). A cluster based approach to visiting families, who must have face to face contact with an early help professional has been developed. During the lockdown period there has been a significant decrease in professional requests for support from early help. This has resulted in the current release of health staff not having an impact, particularly as Health Visitors remain in role.

A significant amount of work has taken place in relation to supporting families, with food parcels in partnership with food banks, providing excellent examples of the Council working with voluntary and community organisations, to ensure family's needs are met. The dialogue is now moving to the model of post lockdown recovery with plans being developed to have a limited number of Family Centre's open, with reduced staffing, to mirror timescales outlined by the Government in relation to schools.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) have made some adjustments to typical arrangements during the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the condition of grant. Given the pressures faced by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) nationally, the YJB have reduced reporting requirements associated with the grant, but we still need to be able to account for how the money provided to Local Authorities is used. The YJB have removed the requirement to send a Youth Justice plan in this financial year (2020/2021).

In the interim, they requested a copy of our business continuity plan, not to quality assure or provide advice on, but so that they can evidence how we plan to use the allocated resources during the COVID-19 pandemic period and beyond. In addition, the YJB also requested a copy of Dudley's Youth Offending Service (YOS) recovery plan and the latest position with our self-assessment of national standards, appreciating that we may have not fully concluded the work or had it signed off by the YOS Management Board.

Further guidance has been provided to Dudley MBC by the YJB detailing how:-

- Police officers will remain in Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and retain the ability to deliver cautions.
- Appropriate adults being recognised as critical workers.
- Courts only dealing with urgent work making better use of technology to convene matters.
- Adjustments being made to support children in the secure estate (longer phone calls and additional phone credit) as visits have been ceased.

YJB also issued Local Authorities with details of an early release scheme relating to the secure estate. No Dudley young people were eligible as this did not include the remand cohort, rather focusing on young people at the end of their sentences.

With these factors in mind, Dudley's Youth Offending Team (YOT) have undertaken a review of all current case work and allocated a RAG rating (combined with Early Help as a whole Family Solutions approach). This determines which young people must have face to face contact with a professional from the team. Cases are reviewed each week, considering vulnerability and/or risk of re-offending. YOS are supporting the limited court activity, the interface with the Police and the secure estate. The team remain active in the fortnightly multi-agency Adolescent Risk Management Meeting, where concerns around young people are greatest and require a high degree of information sharing across disciplines.

The focus now moves to the YOS model of post lockdown recovery with the YOS sighted on regional and national messages around support to young people, both in the secure estate and in the community as part of the preventative agenda that plays a significant role in the contemporary work of Dudley's YOS.

A piece of planned work is underway with Public Health and Children's Social Care (CSC) to ensure that staff are supported during COVID-19 and through the recovery phase.

Education staff and public health are working closely together to develop processes regarding test and trace.

Children & Families

The Assistant Director Children's Social Care is currently preparing a report on the quality of social work practice, to inform Senior Leaders and Members regarding the challenge and actions required, to enable the service to achieve the goals within the improvement agenda in a timely way. Building on the diagnostic report undertaken In November 2019, this report provides a key focus on practice improvement and the services ability to improve outcomes for children and young people.

We are developing our integrated front door further and it will shortly include a social worker from the Dudley Disability Service (DDS) 0 to 18 service and Missing Co-ordinator. This will ensure that we provide the most appropriate response at the point of initial contact to children with a disability or significant health needs and a more seamless pathway to our most high risk young people accessing the right specialist services.

The service will be rebranded as First Response and Children's Assessment Service, which will include the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) process as one of its functions.

We held the first (relaunch) of the Children's Strategic Mash Group on 2nd June, 2020. This was well attended by key partners, where the Terms Of Reference (TOR) and priorities have been agreed. We also agreed the Membership and TOR for the Children's MASH Operational Group, including the frequency of meetings for both groups. The reporting on progress and any proposed changes from the Children's Mash Operational Group will be via the Children's Strategic Mash Group in the first instance and then to the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Group for ratification, and Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership Executive Board to be noted.

The significant fall in new contacts received into the front door since the lockdown has continued, although we have seen some increase in recent weeks. As the number of pupils returning to school increases we would expect to see an upturn in numbers of contacts through the front door and are anticipating that we might start to see a spike in the levels of concern, due to the impact of the lockdown on mental health for example. We continue to undertake business as usual activity to ensure vulnerable children are safeguarded in partnership with other agencies (**see Appendix 1**).

Children In Care & Resources

As stated above we are reviewing the quality of practice within children in care services and have had a spotlight on children placed at home with parents on care orders, with a view to identifying the practice which may have led to some drift in progressing applications for discharge of care orders and the appropriateness of some placements.

Analysis of children in progress for adoption has been completed – 31 children have Agency Decision Maker (ADM) decisions and are at different stages of the adoption

process since March 2018. We have identified serious drift and delays and are tackling these head on. The good news is that, as at 1st May, 2020, 6 children had moved in with their adopters and a further 2 are moving in with their adopters later this month.

The Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) has been tasked to find placements for a further 13 children, whose adoptions have been delayed and a report on their family finding activities was due by the end of June 2020.

Due to effective and purposeful tracking by the new Head of Service, 88 Children have now been identified as suitable to be matched with their carers' and to exit the care system via Special Guardianship Orders. As a result of COVID-19, and the courts not prioritising these applications, 10 applications which were due to be lodged are on hold. However, social workers are tasked with completing all the necessary paperwork, in readiness so that these applications would be prioritised when the courts resume.

A Programme Board consisting of representatives from the service, commissioning and finance are working on a placement resource sufficiency, commissioning, market management and quality assurance strategy of provider services. It is anticipated that a fostering recruitment strategy will be available in July 2020 and a sufficiency strategy will be in place by September 2020. The service will use these to formulate the Corporate Parenting Strategy for the end of November 2020. A number of significant ongoing changes are being made to improve the resources available to children. A revised approach to access to resources is showing positive signs of placement stability but it is too early to assess and measure impact, this will continue to be monitored and reported on at future Boards.

The Contact Centre remains closed due to COVID-19 with restrictions resulting in social workers having to facilitate some court directed contacts in the community. Preparations to re-open contact for court directed work is underway.

Care Proceedings – Special Guardianship Orders (SGO), Adoption and Discharge delays are an ongoing concern as courts in the region continue to prioritise emergency safeguarding application during lockdown. Most dentists have been closed so the Child in Care (CIC) cohort due for checks from March to date will be outstanding, these will be prioritised as dentists re-open.

Staff with home visits have continued to take place in line with statutory requirements and prioritise families based on a RAG rating system which is reviewed weekly.

Virtual School: There is strong oversight and grip on the Virtual School and we are beginning to see the impact it is making in promoting the education of children and young people in care. The Dudley Virtual School has developed systems and processes throughout the year with a new team structure working in partnership with schools and Social Care. A key function of the Virtual School is to ensure children's personal education plan is of good quality and addresses the holistic learning needs of a child in care, taking into account their unique circumstances. Furthermore, there

is ongoing training for Designated Teachers (DT's), Social Workers (SW), Social Worker Team Managers (SWTM), Foster Carers (FC) and Independent Review Officers (IRO's). The e-Pep (electronic Personal Education Plan) has been established in the Post 16 age group and Designated Persons (DP's), Connexions Personal Advisers (PA) Team, and Work – Based Training providers have been given up to date orientation about how to facilitate Post 16 e-Pep.

A collaborative approach with the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) team is being established. This will provide an integrated approach to Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) reviews alongside Pep meetings.

All children in care are supported by an identified Education Adviser, and all schools have a link adviser. The first annual conference, ***'Improving Outcomes For Children In Care' is scheduled virtually for Thursday 9th July 2020.*** Foster Carers have also been offered free access to a webinar at the end of June 2020 entitled 'Supporting The Emotional Well-Being Of Children In Care'.

The strategic direction of the team is outlined in the developing Service Plan for Children in Care and Resources, with calendared monitoring and reporting events. The learning offer this year has been greatly enhanced with the Challenge Tuition Programme being accelerated to meet the challenges of home-schooling due to the COVID-19 situation. Similarly, the newly introduced Arts Link programme has been moved on-line to a regional website. Carers, children and young people have been supported throughout the COVID-19 'lockdown', issuing regular *'Love To Learn' bulletins* which provides advice and guidance to home education continue to complement the work provided by schools.

Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance

Multi-agency working with partners to ensure attendance at child protection conferences and Children Looked After (CLA) Reviews is good. The Safeguarding and Review Service continue to maintain good performance during the pandemic, ensuring that children's meetings are timely. Partnership meetings continue to ensure that any difficulties are dealt with and any obstacles to good partnership working are resolved.

The Safeguarding and Review Service is developing its Service Plan to include a range of activities that hear the voices of children, young people and their parents/carers. This work-stream will link to the wider participation strategy and will importantly focus upon what influence children, young people and their families will have upon the shaping of services.

The Safeguarding and Review Service has reviewed and strengthened its Dispute Resolution Protocol, which sets out the duties upon Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) and Child Protection Chairs to appropriately challenge the Local Authority where there are concerns about care planning for children. The new protocol has been shared with the wider service and tracking and reporting mechanisms have been put in place.

The service is currently developing the new Quality Assurance Framework, to be presented to June's Improvement Board. The purpose of this will be to ensure that there is a robust, clear, process of assurance understood by all that will link into the ongoing learning and development of staff that underpins quality of practice improvement.

Independent auditors will be undertaking a process of moderating the manager's audits and providing one to one mentoring/ coaching to those managers as a result to support their development through June and July 2020.

Practice Workshops

The service has begun to roll out a series of 4 mandatory practice workshops covering, referrals, assessment, planning and review initially, to all managers through June and early July 2020. These workshops focus on good practice requirements and have been developed with staff from the service. The aim is that managers having been through the workshops will then lead to roll them out through July to September 2020 to all children's social care staff

Signs of Safety

The service is in preliminary discussions with the national leads for the potential roll out of Signs of Safety as a model of practice for the service, which will be complemented by the restorative practice approach. This will support the ongoing work to raise quality of practice across the service and partnership.

Education, SEND, Family Solutions, Early Years & Youth

Education Outcomes

The key educational focus for Dudley during the COVID-19 outbreak has been to ensure that as many schools as possible have been open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils, either with a Social Worker and/or with an Educational Health and Care Plan.

The majority of schools have only closed when there were no families needing provision or because the numbers were so low that it was safer to move the pupils to another school to reduce the number of staff needing to be in work. Around half of the schools were open during the Easter holidays, including a few on both Bank Holidays.

For the majority of young people, education has been provided remotely by their school for them to learn at home. Most schools have provided online learning but, where necessary, physical learning packs have been produced for families.

All 79 Primary schools have been contacted and are now open.

- 78 have extended their opening for at least one of the three targeted year groups from 15th June, 2020 (76 by 8th June, 2020)
- All 78 Schools are planning to open for the Year 6 cohort by 22nd June, 2020 (72 from 8th June, 2020)
- 65 Schools have opened for Year 1 pupils from 15th June, 2020 (54 from 8th June, 2020)
- 52 Schools are planning to open for Reception pupils by 22nd June, 2020 (40 from 8th June, 2020)
- 51 Schools are planning to open all three year groups by 22nd June, 2020 (33 from 8th June, 2020)

Some primary schools have decided to open using a split week to maximise their year groups' time back in school. This will remain under review, as we expect pupil numbers to increase, as confidence builds and non-essential shops are re-opened.

All 19 secondary schools have been contacted and are now open. All schools are also offering on-line learning for all year groups.

As from 15th June, 2020, all schools except one, are inviting year 10 into school for face to face sessions, which include direct teaching in classes and, academic and/or pastoral mentoring. The one school that isn't offering face to face sessions for year 10 are continuing to offer an extensive on-line learning package that includes daily live lessons led by the teaching staff from the school.

Two out of the three schools with post-16 provision are offering face-to-face sessions in school for year 12 to supplement on-line learning.

All schools are adhering to the 25% cohort Department of Education (DfE) guideline.

All secondary schools have also started their transition planning and are in contact with the primary schools. They are currently following the DfE guidance not to invite year 6 into schools for induction, although a couple of schools will continue to review this and are keen to offer some visits to take place, perhaps in July 2020.

Schools are also preparing on-line virtual tours, and transition packs are being sent home. Microsoft Teams meetings with pastoral staff, and phone calls with Year 6 class teachers and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) are additionally being set up by many schools.

Approximately 1000 Devices (Laptops and Chromebooks) have been received for children who have involvement with a social worker. Education Outcomes are working with the Social Work team, Dudley Grid for Learning and Research Machines to prepare these devices for distribution to schools and families as soon as is practical. The devices are intended to support children with remote learning and to help them stay in touch with social care services. A number of 4G devices are available to support those families without internet access. Along with many

Local Authorities the facility to order laptops for Year 10 disadvantaged students is not currently open to us but this order will be placed as soon as that is available.

As well as ensuring that all pupils and staff are safe during this period, a key concern has been providing free school meals to families of pupils that are eligible. This has involved providing food bags for families and the majority of schools are using a national voucher scheme that allows parents to buy food at a supermarket of their choice.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

The COVID 19 Pandemic has impacted the capacity of resources across the Dudley SEND System, to deliver some of the actions and outputs in the Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

To mitigate this, a review has now been completed with all of our partners to review and re-prioritise where necessary, the delivery dates for actions and we have revised our delivery plans accordingly. This has been shared with our DfE Advisor who is satisfied with the re-prioritised areas.

The Amendment Coronavirus Act 2020 to modify Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014: (Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments and Plans: Guidance on temporary legislative changes relating to coronavirus), came into effect on the 1st May 2020 following the Guidance issued by the DfE on 30th April 2020, outlining the changes and modification of requirements under the act relating to SEND.

The DfE report on the review on our progress at the 25th March, 2020 Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) commented on our progress against the commitments we made in our WSoA submission. It reports that of the 131 specific actions in the WSoA, 31 are completed, 79 in progress and 21 not yet to start. Since the time of the report in March, 2020 the WSoA progress is now 60 completed, 57 in progress and 14 not yet started. The March, 2020 report also states that:

- Leaders understand the scale and pace expected of them to make the required progress in the priority areas identified in the WSoA.
- The SEND Oversight Group is driving forward an ambitious improvement plan that goes beyond the WSoA and ensures that the 14 priority areas are visible.
- The SEND Improvement Strategy has clear governance in place along with programme management capacity and monitoring arrangements.
- The SOG intends to provide the overall strategic direction of the SEND Improvement Strategy. This will ensure delivery of the SEND improvement plan complies with statutory, duties under the Education Act, Care Act, Children and Families Act and other relevant legislation.

The area reports that the following key milestones have been delivered:

- SEND Communications Strategy and Plan in place.



- SEND team structure revised and recruitment funded.
- Review of all SEND operational procedures and processes underway.
- Agreed Parents/Carers improvement project participation.
- Transparent pathways and criterion to SEND provision.
- Additional Clinical Commissioning Group Deputy Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) post, funded to support the Designated Medical Officer (DMO).
- Joint Commissioning Strategy development underway.
- SEND Outcomes Framework development underway.
- Preparation for Adulthood pathway development underway.
- Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) task & finish improvement group launched.
- Revision of SEND Workforce Development Plan underway.
- Dudley EHCP database in place to provide robust Management Information (MI) and National, regional and statistical neighbour data.

Dudley, have established the foundations for a programme of SEND improvement and has engaged stakeholders and a number of actions have already been completed or are in progress, but at this early stage there is little evidence of impact and a constant focus on this will be necessary going forward.

The SEND Senior Managers have joined the West Midlands Regional Group and have access to updated information regarding SEND changes. Dudley attended the DfE presentation on 1st May, 2020 with others from the region, and as a result have put in place revised compliance measures and adopted the 'best endeavours' and 'practical reasonable' approach as required by the amended regulations guidance.

As part of the wider SEND Improvement Programme we have comprehensively reviewed and subsequently revised the EHCP processes, policies, procedures, and approaches.

The SEND Panel criteria and multi-agency member attendance has resulted in an improved quality and robustness in the decision-making process. In addition, the High Cost and Post 16 Commissioning Panel, with their newly established criteria and multi-agency attendance has enabled tripartite and joint funding discussions, that has seen shared cost across Social Care, Health and SEND.

The dedicated Compliance and Tribunal Officer has significantly impacted on the court process and improved Dudley's previous reputation which has resulted in not only two cases being ruled in our favour, but four cases being vacated with consent orders saving the Local Authority significant courts costs in resolving these cases collaboratively with parents.

The Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) statement has been approved through the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) and is now out for consultation which concludes at the beginning of July, 2020. This clearly outlines how supporting

specific children unable to access full-time mainstream education will be going forwards.

The SEND Network and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) cluster development, will enhance the joint working between SEND and the SENCo's to improve identification of SEN support children through the graduated approach and improves the outcomes for those with EHCP's. A SEND Network programme is being developed with the SENCo leads for this transformation change.

The latest SEND guidance places greater emphasis on the impact of the family when the Risk assessment is being carried out, to ensure that as many children as possible are encouraged to return back to school safely. More schools are asking for support from SEND with the risk assessments, particularly those with underlying health conditions that may be part of the shielded list. Collaboration with the DCO on joint risks assessments are taking place.

The Local Offer and Participation Officer has started, so the usage and promotion of the Dudley Local Offer will begin in earnest, to provide families with a Local Offer that actively communicates with parents and young people in enabling families to access the statutory information to help them make informed choices.

The SEND Service is now fully staffed with the caseloads assigned to Case Officers for the first time in a long while.

A Provision & Services Group has been started with membership across the partners. Key deliverables have been agreed to make sure that we have a robust Joint Commissioning Strategy, Joint Sufficiency Plan supported by robust demand model back with full ongoing maintenance of data and governance cycles.

A Preparation for Adulthood project group has been set up to deliver the co-produced a Provision for Adulthood (PFA) Strategy and Pathway. The group is also tasked with delivering improvements to the way we work together with partners, also track, manage, and develop the Provision for Adulthood (PFA) provision across Dudley, utilising the 0-25 Demand Model, being developed though the Provision & Services Group.

SEND Systems Improvements have continued to deal with ongoing historic problems with the data. User training has been rolled out across the SEND team, with Servelec, the system supplier, providing direct support to make sure we are getting maximum benefit from Synergy. The work is being undertaken at a transformational level and will deliver great improvements around the ability to use data for decisions, as well as moving to more efficient case management routines.

Family Solutions

The Children's Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) have agreed to progress opening of Dudley North and Stourbridge Family Centres, with relevant assistance from the Local Authority support services, in order to maximise support to families



who need Early Help support linked to the 1st June, 2020 (and beyond) extension of school places. A date will be determined for opening, following a risk assessment and agreement on safe use of the building for staff, partners and members of the public in line with the Council's wider recovery plan led by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Youth

We have continued to operate a duty rota, with a duty manager for each day as well as a duty worker and two back up staff, in the event the duty person has to go and conduct a PACE interview etc.

As previously indicated the Youth Offending Service (YOS) are undertaking home visits to undertake offending behaviour work, or safe and well checks. Some have made contact with children over the phone or virtual face-to-face contacts. Parents/carers have also been contacted via this means.

Children are accessing offending behaviour work/resources via the YOS virtual classroom, YouTube videos for the bee project and workbooks through the post.

The Employment, Training and Education (ETE) staff member has also been delivering learning resources to pre-16 children.

Staff continue to manage the courts on a Black Country rota. Most of the court work recently has been that of swearing warrants and proceeding with breaches or trials. There is a backlog of cases building up in the Youth Court, as sittings have not been taking place. Meetings are taking place between Police and YOS' across the West Midlands to see if we can address this issue.

Police have been taking a "light touch approach" which has seen a steady flow of work into pre court outcomes.

Staff are using jabber or Microsoft teams to be part of their supervision or participate in child protection conference, strategy reviews and Detention Training Order (DTO)/CLA reviews etc.

YOS continue to manage the risk to the public as well as the safety and wellbeing of children we work with via the integrated safeguarding meeting, and referrals continue to be made for prevention and diversion away from court.

The National standard audit has been submitted and action for improvements have been developed.

Since Easter bank holiday detached youth work has been running on 5 evenings and 2 afternoons each week.

The focus has been on young people and supporting them to understand and follow the ever changing lockdown guidance as well as any ASB. The work is in partnership

with police and park activators with strong community engagement starting to come through.

Improvement Services to the Children and Families Board

The Board is currently operating on a monthly virtual basis. This situation will remain under review.

Children's Services continue to focus their attention on improvement across the range of services, in line with detailed improvement plans, and monitored through the Children's Improvement Board.

The Children's Improvement Board has received an interim report on the Dudley Disability Service audit work, following the agreement with Ofsted, in December, 2019 that all children's cases would be reviewed. This was in response to them raising concerns around safeguarding of this group of children.

The Board has agreed that the action plan prepared in response to the findings will be reported on by the Director of Adult Services.

The Board is however awaiting the final reports that have not been presented, although they have been prepared and the last board received verbal feedback.

The Board continues to monitor the progress of the partnership against the newly agreed children's improvement plan and the SEND plans.

4. The information in this report updates the Members on the key activity required to maintain the safety and wellbeing of children and young people during this pandemic.
5. Throughout the current period of Lockdown, ongoing consultation and discussion is occurring with key stakeholders, to ensure that all actions necessary to identify and protect vulnerable children occurs in line with ongoing national and local advice.
6. The activity outlined in this report supports the key corporate Stronger and safer communities and Growing the Economy and Creating jobs

Finance

7. Central Government have made numerous funding streams available to support local authorities during the Coronavirus outbreak, including financial assistance to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The latest assumption is that Children's Services will benefit from approximately £1.8m of Dudley's Covid funding which will support the extensions of placements for children in care and to cover the loss of traded services income during the lockdown period, including school led community activities.

Law

8. The Coronavirus Act 2020 makes provision in connection with coronavirus, and for connected purposes.

Equality Impact

9. The activity outlined within this report are within the operational functions of the Directorate and meet the needs of all children and families within the council.
10. The service delivers to all children and young people requiring support and or education within agreed frameworks. The services have processes of consultation with young people to support ongoing service improvement.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

11. This report has no additional Human Resources/Organisational Development issues outside of those already incorporated into the authorities COVID 19 responses.

Commercial/Procurement

12. Any procurement or contracting activity will be undertaken following the Councils Contract Standing Orders.

Health, Wellbeing and Safety

13. The activity outlined in this report is targeted to support families during the current COVID 19 period to ensure that vulnerable families receive the necessary support and assistance required.

C. Knowles

Catherine Knowles

Interim Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Matthew Sampson

Telephone: 01384 813162

Email: matthew.sampson@dudley.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Contact Activity Data: Attached

