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Covid-19

Update on restoration plans for schools

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Dear colleague

I am writing to outline our Covid-19 service restoration plans for our physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, community nursing and community paediatric services.

Firstly, can I thank you for working with us over the last few months as we sought (and have been able) to maintain as many services as possible, including for children and young people with EHCPs, during the significant challenges of the pandemic.

We are now planning for the restoration of our SEND services. However, it is important to recognise that whilst the government is taking steps to ease the country out of lockdown, we are still in a pandemic. Our priority in restoring services is to ensure the safety of school staff, our own staff and of course the children and families we support.

As such, our restoration plans are being informed by NHS England's publication 'COVID-19 Restoration of Community Health Services for Children and Young People: Second Phase of NHS Response', published on 3rd June 2020. This outlines that:

- services for children and young people 0–25 years with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) with an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP) should be fully restored 'with some prioritisation where indicated and as capacity dictates; and'
- services should be provided at home; school where needed; MDT clinic; telephone; and other virtual support.

In practical terms this means our staff will continue to deliver high quality services:

- virtually wherever possible, recognising the flexibility this approach offers families, which also addresses the risks to all involved of delivering services in close proximity; and
- face to face where the clinician feels they are unable to be clinically effective via a virtual contact. Please be assured we will wear appropriate PPE for these contacts to protect your school's staff, the children and our own staff from possible transmission of Covid-19.

All our services have well developed plans to meet the needs of children and families virtually. All clinicians have the technology to offer video consultations and this has proved beneficial to many families as we have faced this pandemic together. We would welcome the opportunity to extend virtual consultations to your school if you are willing and able to accommodate this. Please do let me know.

We will of course continue to review our approach as any new national guidance is issued, and seek your views to inform future improvements.

Many thanks for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Please be assured of our ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of children and young people in a safe and effective way.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Peberdy".

John Peberdy
Service Director
Cambridgeshire & Norfolk Children and Young People's Services