

RI Forum

5th November 2021

Living with Covid 19 and Coronavirus

Pandemic related

- Vaccinations for children:
 - 12-15 years
 - 16-17 years
 - No licensed vaccine in the UK for under 12's at present
 - Booster programme onwards
 - New variants?
 - Vaccine hesitancy – impact?
 - Numbers rising again.
 - Impact during the winter?
 - Impact for the services to take into account?



Pandemic related:

- ongoing related to the pandemic:
 - staff welfare / use of supervision to make deal with / explore staff own issues and concerns
 - children / young people and their feelings about ongoing issues
 - children / young people and the feelings and reflections on the last 16 months
 - <https://socialcareinspection.blog.gov.uk/2021/05/25/in-care-during-covid-19-what-children-told-us-about-lockdown/>



Becoming evident as safeguarding issues:-

- poverty
- accommodation (linked to above)
- free school meal indicator- going up-c.7% in some local authority areas
- domestic abuse
- disruption of support networks(relatives shielding , death from covid-19)
- increase in parental substance

- increase in the number of children/young people with additional needs. EHCP requests increased
- impact on young carers- have they become a young carer because of covid-19 / long covid-19 for a parent or carer? Up by 3%
- impact of social isolation
- regression
- mental health issues- emotional / social resilience, self harm , behaviour

thoughts- young people coming into residential services may have experienced a worsening of trauma issues in this period. How will you capture that information?

Issues to address:

- challenge in getting all our linked agency systems up and running-ongoing and impacted by staff leaving , ongoing Covid cases and isolation requirements
- increased levels of vulnerability in relation to CE
- impact of increased social media exposure
- potential increase in looked after children- already happening
- need for increased resources
- need for strategic planning
- build in responses as a part of progress monitoring
- impact on youth employment
- impact on FE / HE settings

VACCINATION- ISSUES:

- areas for senior leaders to consider in relation to vaccines:
 - you may have to manage a part vaccinated community / non-vaccinated community... how? what issues could arise ? Is this likely to be ongoing?
 - how will you know who has been vaccinated and who has not? do you need to know?
 - how will you be sure that the person has received both vaccines? do you need to know ?
 - families / carers who refuse the vaccination?
 - longer term view re. an ongoing booster programme
 - practicalities like time off work to have the injections?
 - ongoing – face , space and hands?
 - ? mandatory vaccination
 - any other thoughts?

WHAT NEXT?

- a lot to think about? need to plan as a new line of strategic safeguarding
- are you confident in the short term , medium term of your plans?
- do you have clear views at the moment of the impact(s) / interventions/ potential issues for vulnerable young people at home , in school , with mentors, online learning, emotional health, in broader society?
- do you have clear links and input to senior leadership processes in relation to covid-19 and the longer term strategic planning which will be necessary for the service ?
- is your organisation supportive and informed?
- current situation with rising case numbers

Vaccine hesitancy....

- INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL GROUP INFLUENCES

- Immunisation is a social norm VS immunisation is not needed/harmful
- Beliefs , attitudes and motivation about health prevention
- Knowledge and awareness of why/where/what/when vaccines are needed
- Personal experience with and trust in health system and provider
- Risks/benefits- as perceived
- Experience with past vaccination

- CONTEXTUAL INFLUENCES

- family
- socio-economic group
- peer group
- influential leaders and individuals
- politics/policies
- religion
- culture
- gender
- social media.

Vaccine hesitancy

- **VACCINE AND VACCINATION SPECIFIC ISSUES**

- Risk / benefit
- Access to vaccination
- Mode of administration/
delivery
- Introduction of a new vaccine
- Reliability of vaccine supply
- Role of healthcare professionals
- Any incentive to be vaccinated
- Information and follow up

- Any others you can think of?

What next?

1. Look at safeguarding “in the round” in your service
2. Do you need to do a point in time review to focus on where you are at present and what could be changed, amended , developed as you move forward?
3. Do you hold a strategic and developmental view of safeguarding/Covid 19?
4. Do you hear voices of young people in all aspects of their lives and their home?