

# Children's Services Response to Covid 19 Pandemic

Health and Wellbeing Board: 8 July 2020

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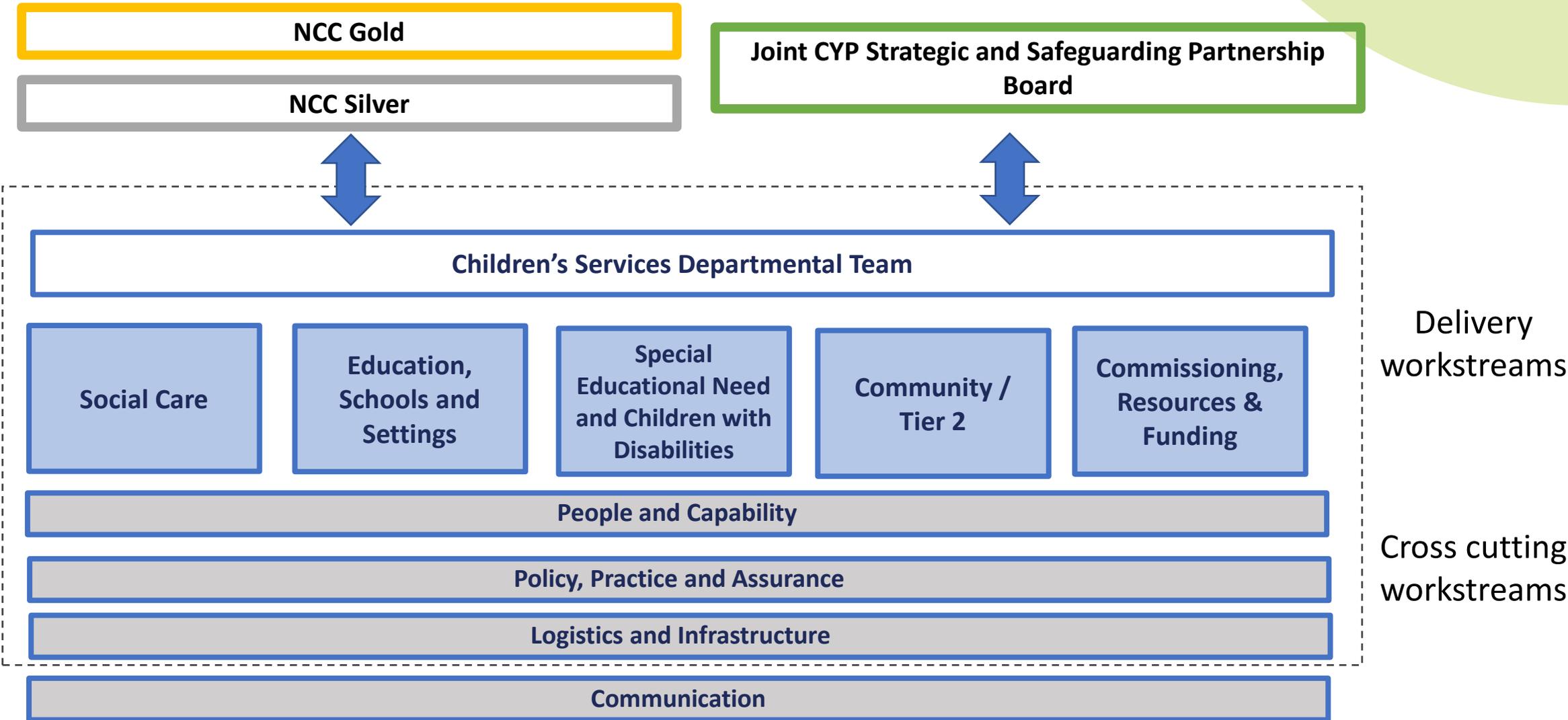
# Overview

Children's Services team have been focussed on a range of key challenge and roles

- Ensuring immediate safety
- Maintaining critical service provision
- System Leadership – in particular in relation to education, safeguarding and community support
- Keeping Eyes and Ears on children
- Managing a complex market
- Supporting our staff teams
- Communication at an unprecedented scale
- Planning for the less obvious and longer term impacts on children and families

# Children's Service Response to Covid 19 – Initial Phase

Clear management structure in place. Partner and system representation on all delivery workstreams and brought together strategically via the CYP strategic and Safeguarding Partnership Boards which have merged together during crisis.



# What are our priorities in the immediate and short term?

- Safe(r) reintroduction of essential face-to-face services and activities and management of council workspaces
- Supporting schools, settings and colleges as numbers of children and young people attending increases
- Co-ordinating allocation and distribution of government funded devices for disadvantaged children
- Linking up with the local “test and trace” processes and what this means e.g. providing guidance for schools
- Linking with Community Cell to maintain support services for vulnerable and shielded people
- Ongoing work to ensure individual children, young people and families at tier 2 are safe and supported as a result of coordinated and effective partnership responses during the recovery phase
- Maintaining the provider market – in particular focus on critical and essential providers/ VCSE partners and their sustainability
- Understanding the challenges facing our workforce now to best support them as part of the new normal
- Implementing transformation activity that was close to going live prior to lockdown (in parallel with reshaping transformation over the longer term)

# Reflections & Lessons Learned

Concern about specific cohorts of children e.g. child at risk of exploitation - referrals are low and risks are higher

Some aspects of practice have thrived – for example engaging family members in solutions

The priority now is to use our joint commissioning across social care, education and health, as well as our governance arrangements, including the Alliance Board, to maintain a coordinated co-commissioning approach with key partners.

Embracing new technologies and cultural change unlocking potential for the future

Although school attendance has increased its clear that families have been nervous and far fewer are in school than we would like

The importance of working with the provider market – in particular critical and essential providers/ VCSE partners so that there is sustainability and capacity to flex delivery to respond to any 'surge'

There is likely to be a lag in the financial impact for VCSE organisations, once current central government support ends, There is considerable uncertainty over future funding for the sector

How do we build on the positive parts of our response to automate the sharing of data removing historic barriers

We are still concerned some cases we would normally have been working have not been referred – there will be unmet needs and the potential for a surge in demand to come

Settings, schools and colleges will need help for many months, supporting trauma, behaviour, complex needs, recovery curriculum planning, catch up

For some families this period has increased their resilience and this is something we want to build on further

Norfolk settings, schools and colleges have responded very positively and worked co-operatively with the local authority

**COVID 19**

**Looking ahead  
together**

# Children and Families needs will be felt over the medium term and beyond



Risk level is an estimate based on current circumstance and will vary dependent on developing situation. e.g. economic impact, vaccine development...

# Overarching Objectives for Recovery Phase – medium to long term

- Managing the re-set and recovery activities across Children's Services
- Shaping and influencing the “new normal” across the Council and wider systems
- Developing our response to the anticipated surge in need / demand (over next 6 months)
- Preparing for a “second peak” or lockdown
- Reshaping and restarting our transformation programme including development of future model of support around schools, settings and communities (for the long term)
- Managing the financial implications of Covid 19 and the gap in public service funds – working to address the financial challenge with the same focus as we've managed the crisis

# Children and Young People Partnership Recovery Themes

01

**Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing** for children and families including concerns about C-19 and challenges at home

02

Needs around **Domestic Abuse & Family Relationships** and inability to escape abusive situations

03

**Substance Misuse** needs, linked to mental health

04

Individuals and organised **Online Exploitation** groups using the situation as an opportunity

05

Reduction in availability of **Respite** support for children and young people with SEND

06

**Young Carers** experiencing increased pressure and worry

07

Increased levels of **Bereavement** exacerbated by reduction in normal support mechanisms

08

Unmet **health** and **developmental needs** arising from late/no presentation or support

09

Reduction in **Language Acquisition** for vulnerable groups during education gap

10

Supporting children & young people **transitioning back to school**

11

**VCSE Sector** capacity, delivery and funding pressures