

Economically Vulnerable Task-Force
Snapshot of minutes and discussion points from meetings

September 2020 meeting

Item 2 - Feedback on advice, reaching out to edge of care people and Corporate Comms

Aspire is open for the most vulnerable

Why not fully open – front door not open – will look at satellites hosted in different borough schools

OT very well embedded with Aspire

OT attendance 90% - 20% above national

Adults refocusing on supporting micro enterprises

App for unpaid careers to support them

LD services returning well

Item 3 - The YOS and how we protect the vulnerable from gangs etc in a recession.

YOS has “Red balloon” service commissioned, using police data to identify areas of high need.

Working with Aspire. OT to link in.

OT to report back about how young people’s perception is changing about their economic opportunities as they get to the end of their time at the PRU.

Item 4 - Olive Trust and how we can work with the PRU to support those most at risk in a recession

Further update to be given at the next meeting.

Item 5 - DWP and recovery plan

Dwp has done a care survey – will share data

DWP data sharing is good. Need more specific data in different sectors.

Key risk is there are a lot of programs, need to make sure they link.

Kickstart is a big opportunity for SEND.

DWP committed to attend ASB.

August 2020 meeting

Item 2 Update on outreach lists, feedback on advice offered

- More working has been done to support caregivers as a new work stream.
- More outreach is being done to offer respite for adults and children's, but more needs to be done.
- GCSE and A-Level result issues have caused real issues. Aspire has offered one to one support here. Vital to protect Aspire funding in the budget round.

Item 2.1 Expanding the "edge of care" and care provider list

- Working with local area coordinators to increase their knowledge base etc, as well as Thurrock First. More to be done in Sept/Oct. CW trying to do more to quantify numbers here.
- Youth teams working with young people based on school referrals. Aspire reopening for face to face work.
- CW and ML to link LAC's and Youth Teams.

Item 3 "World of work funding" and needed capacity

- WOW funding restored to March 2021. RH meeting to talk about targeting. Capacity needs still emerging.
- CCG funding their own plan. Still information on this.

Item 4 and item 5 DWP Data sharing

- Still no DWP attendance. Not good enough! S Taylor missing, so not update on recovery plan with regards to the vulnerable. ML to chase for next meeting.

Item 4.1 Corporate communications of advice

- RH to action. Need to ensure corp comms reflects this agenda.

Item 6 Emerging housing breakdown data

- With housing protection extended, we have little data to indicate scale of issue.
- Head Start housing only has 10% capacity, but we do have some additional covid housing. More work is being done to look at cross departmental commissioning for high end placements.
- Need to make sure all of these housing options are captured within the transition plan. CW and ML to engage with Joe Tynan.
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Item 7 Adult training budget issues / getting younger people into care profession

- Adult college reshaping Sept offer. Looking at how we can support the creation of care jobs.

Item 8 Concerns from Safeguarding Boards

- No specific concerns coming up.

July 2020 meeting

Item 2 Update on outreach lists and feedback on advice and support offered

- We have 630 care leavers, SEND and NEET young people we are reaching out to
- Feedback remains limited
- Mental health info now being issued
- 850 service using adults being reached out to
- Feedback limited at the moment, mainly via LAC's
- Need to consider care givers – Michele and Catherine
- Need data on quality jobs and opportunities, not just quantity
- Need to ensure people are aware of their entitlements i.e. UC

Item 3 Finding / reaching out to “edge of care” people

- Still have a gap in terms of data / info sharing with DWP – S Taylor to chase
- Corporate communications (email and paper) are vital. Need to make sure the advice is getting out. Roger Harris to action.

Item 4 “World of work funding” and other support for adults

- Will fund “world of work” via remaining covid funds. Need to assess if this is enough with the increased demands – Roger to action.

Item 5 Enhanced recruitment for jobs in adult and child social care

- Concerns are with the adult training and skills budget – Michele to look into
- Course in adult colleges to increase interest in care jobs is key – Michele to look into

Item 6 How wider recovery work can support care leavers and the vulnerable

- Refreshed economic development plan must contain clear intentions towards care leavers, SEND, and learning disabled – S Taylor to action.
- Future meeting (maybe Sept) should include regen colleagues in terms of bringing local plan / housing plans forward for job creation

Item 7 Emerging housing / employment breakdown data

- No info yet on EVT cohort presenting to the council for housing.
- August 23rd key due to housing protections ending. Must review – Roger.
- Head start housing 79% occupied – scale up? – Michele to review

Item 8 Concerns from Safeguarding Boards

- No concerns from children board
- Written comments from Jim are as follows –
 - 1. Despite a general reduction in recorded crime levels, incidents of domestic abuse have started to increase, with further rises anticipated. This is true in Thurrock as well as wider Essex and the Region.
 - 2. We are concerned about the possible increase in the level of drug-related activity during the lockdown, including County Lines and cuckooing. I have

asked police if they still maintain indications of price/purity of key drugs such as heroin and cocaine. You will appreciate that these are good indicators of the sufficiency of supply for these main drugs. It used to be the case that Thurrock had a significant under-use of these Class A drugs, but that is no longer the case.

- 3. Whilst not seen in Thurrock, in Southend and in parts of London, victims of modern slavery have been “released” by their captors as they haven’t been able to generate any income for them. They have been picked up roaming the streets, having been made homeless. As you know we maintain a vigilant approach to modern slavery.
- 4. We are also concerned about the activities of scammers and have some limited anecdotal evidence of scams being conducted on a pan-Essex basis. You will be interested to know that the Board has funded a project which provides suitable individuals in Thurrock with a free service to get registered with Lasting Powers of Attorney, which can be seen as a preventative response for the more vulnerable.
- Roger suggested the EVT work go to O&S

June 2020 meeting

Full group in attendance

Item 2 Pulling together the list of those care leavers, soon to be care leavers, and other vulnerable adults ie LD

- Need report at next meeting on a separate adults list (over 25) - MH, Drug, LD, LAC –. Catherine to own.
- NEET groups to be added to Micheles list.
- Edge of care issues is the biggest risk. Michele and Catherine to cast a wide net and feed back.
- A big issue is the “world of work funding” – we want it. £30,000 loss from the CCG. Roger to consider with JH.
- Duplication risk with economic group of Steve Taylor’s. Ask Steven to attend the next meeting. Cllr Halden to own.
- Catherine and Michele to link and jointly report at next meeting.

Item 3 The advice emails and monitoring feedback

- Focus groups for up to 25 year olds being held to consider the quality of advice. Report for next meeting. Michele to own.
- Need to check employment advice is considered alongside care act obligations. Roger / Catherine to own.
- Ask Steven Taylor to outline what we can do with the apprenticeship levy to support people / focus on retraining. Possibly lobby government. Cllr Halden to own.

Item 4 Any information on National figures and planning assumptions for economically at risk children and young adults

- Claimant count increase very alarming. Must focus our own apprentice’s opportunities at the most at risk where possible. Michele to own.
- Care market is an option. Enhanced recruitment is needed. Possibly targeted work based on higher claimant count wards. Should work with DWP. Roger to own.

Item 5 Emerging concerns from the Safeguarding Boards

- Edge of care / unknown need remains the big concern. Actively asking boards to consider this.
- Children will be more vulnerable to criminal exploitation. Police involvement remains a mixed picture. Thurrock young people being in other borough gangs makes it difficult. Cllr Halden to lobby the PCC to make sure we keep a close focus on the vulnerable.

Item 6 What Consideration can we give to the adults in care / edge of care etc who are not economically active

- ESA remains too high compared to other forms of benefits. Invite DWP to this forum. Roger to get a contact to Cllr Halden to issue an invite.