



SEE, HEAR, RESPOND

*COVID – Children and Young
peoples conference*

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Aim of See Hear Respond

Coordinate a dynamic sector response to find and respond to children who are hidden from view who are not receiving support currently from statutory agencies who are:

- at risk of harm and/or
- experiencing adverse impact to their health and wellbeing

In order to:

- support and safeguard these children early,
- prevent additional harm and ensuring that needs don't escalate

The children we wanted to find

- Under 5's – especially under 2's (1,626)
- Young Carers (1,396)
- Children at risk of abuse and exploitation inside and outside of the home (1,599)
- Children with SEN and disabled children with additional adversity/ harm (4,211)
- Children from Black and Minority Ethnic communities (7,148)
- Children with mental health and wellbeing needs (11,853)

Any child where there are escalated concerns during this time with no support in place and no priority core group (1,368)

Programme Headlines at 8 months

83 Partners – 30 Black, Asian and minority ethnic community groups

320,000 visits to the digital support hub

57,010 children and families supported

22,218 Advice and Support Interventions

32,184 Children worked with in detached settings

24,884 Therapeutic support work sessions

9,146 Children or parents worked with in group work sessions

6,138 Children supported back into school

4,951 Crisis face to face support sessions

£220,000 Crisis fund spent on basic amenities and digital equipment

Thematic Data on Need

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Children referred into the project so far

- Behavioural difficulties whose families would normally be well supported from school and are not coping
- High levels of anxiety- not coming out of bedrooms, panic attacks, self harm, suicide ideation and attempts
- Schools fear that the break in contact will mean they don't return to school again
- Multiple significant needs for some time but whom haven't met thresholds for support
- Children at risk in street based settings – no safe spaces for children to go

New parents who are feeling anxious and unable to cope

- Experiencing hate crime - increased through coronavirus

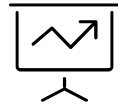
BAME Children - structural inequalities

- Children being missed by existing services
- Increased impact of poverty and health impact (disproportionate death rates) - due to existing economic inequalities
- Increased racism and hate crime
- Lack of accurate and factual information for communities in their own languages around COVID-19
- Children absorbing negative media narrative about disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and increase in anxiety and fear - am i going to die?
- Usual family community support networks being severed by social distancing

Key Harms identified in SHR

Overarching Themes

- Online Harms – both exploitation and harmful online content
- Familial safeguarding concerns – physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, domestic abuse and child to parent violence
- Extra familial exploitation – trafficking, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation, peer on peer abuse,
- Other safeguarding harms – MHWB/ self harm, suicide, hate crime/ racism, children use of substances and alcohol, impacted by peers behaviour, criminal activity



Why children haven't disclosed?

- They have – just through behaviours and presentations not words (Case study)
- Increased feelings of fear – in a pandemic safe people disappear and no-one protects you
- (Case Study)
- No access to the safe people that would normally talk to (Case Study)
- Lockdown might happen again – who will safeguard me?
- Most children don't disclose in ordinary situations its up to adults to ask

Key Lessons Learned

- The impact no 'eligibility' criteria has on finding hidden need – a wide front door – open, friendly inclusive
- Children and families have valued a rapid and holistic approach
- Outcomes can be achieved through many different delivery mechanisms (Surf therapy, Whatsapp groups, family support, performing arts)
- Agility and flexibility of smaller organisations – if you don't bring community based orgs in you miss children from those communities
- Benefits for both small and large orgs working together
- Need for agile staffing structure
- Benefits of data sharing and developing a single dashboard
- Early help in some Local Authorities – has thresholds that many children can't meet