Covid-19
Communication with educational settings relating to the Statutory Process

During these unprecedented times, educational settings have been seeking clarity relating to the statutory process around Education, Health and Care Plans.

The Statutory Assessment & Monitoring Service (SAMS) and Statutory Assessment Team (SAT) in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, respectively would like to share the following updates as of 26th March 2020.

Assessments:
We do not yet have clarity regarding how the statutory process will be affected during this period, however, it is safe to say that there will be an impact on the statutory timescales. Local authorities are awaiting guidance from the Department for Education relating to this and will provide further updates as they become available.

Annual Reviews:
Reviews should go ahead, virtually wherever possible, however as Health & Social Care colleagues are prioritising their work, they will be unlikely to have any involvement in the annual review process during this time. Therefore, the educational setting should consider whether it is appropriate to go ahead. Please notify the LA if you are not going ahead with a review, detailing the justification and plan for rearranging.

Both local authorities will continue to process annual reviews within the resources available.

Consultations:
We still have to continue with the process of consulting educational settings, particularly as they are still open, however we understand that you may not be able to respond within the 15 day timeframe; if you are unlikely to meet this timescale by a significant amount of time, we would be grateful if you could communicate this to us by contacting the following emails addresses:

Peterborough – senteam@peterborough.gov.uk
Cambridgeshire - Statutory.Assessment&ResourcesTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Requests for statutory assessment:
We are waiting for guidance from the DfE regarding the official way forward in terms of processing requests for statutory assessment. We are aware that for many settings, this period may give ample opportunity for you to undertake paperwork tasks, including putting together requests for statutory assessment. We kindly request that you consider very carefully whether your request needs to be submitted right now or the number of requests you make, this is because we won’t be able to process them in the usual way, for example, seeking updates and information form Health & Social Care colleagues within the first six weeks to aid decision making.

Contact with the services:
Both local authorities are trying to maintain telephone contact during this period for settings and parents. We have also allocated some dedicated hotlines along with wider services – details of these can be found on the Local Offer pages of our websites, links below:

Peterborough:

Cambridgeshire:

The Educational Psychology Services are not providing a hotline service as they are continuing to undertake statutory work as far as possible, with face to face assessments being replaced with telephone consultations. They are also providing wider support, for example bereavement support.