



Coventry City Council

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To all Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

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Date: 23rd July 2020

Our ref: C/EMK

Dear Member,

**Supplementary Agenda – Meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee -
Wednesday, 29th July, 2020**

The papers for the above meeting were circulated on 21st July. At the time of publication, there was a presentation which was not available. This document has now been received and is attached to this letter. Please include it with your papers for the meeting.

- **Agenda Item 4. EDUCATION AND VULNERABLE FAMILIES** (Pages 3 - 24)

To receive a presentation of Director of Children's Services and Director of Education and Skills

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Liz Knight
Governance Services Officer

Membership: Councillors N Akhtar, A Andrews, R Brown (Chair), J Clifford, L Kelly (Deputy Chair), C Miks, G Ridley, K Sandhu and R Singh

By invitation: Councillors B Gittins, K Maton and P Seaman

Co-opted Members: S Hanson and K Jones



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Scrutiny Briefing Presentation

To: Scrutiny Coordination Committee

Date: 29th July 2020

Subject: Education and Vulnerable Families



Name: Kirston Nelson

Job Title: Director Education and Skills

Service Area: Education and Skills

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Education and Vulnerable Families

Vulnerable children in this context, include those that are known to social care, are at risk of exclusion or without a school place, are at risk of exploitation or criminal activity, have special educational needs and or a complex health condition.



1. Purpose of the presentation

To share the partnership journey of collaboration, challenges and support, evidencing the commitment to minimise where possible the negative impact COVID-19 has had on the education offer for vulnerable children and their families through:

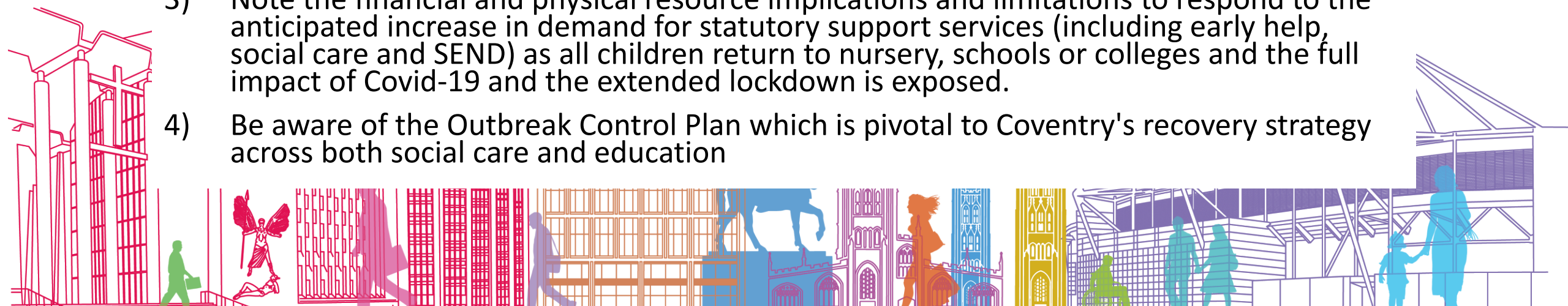
- The co-production of a partnership strategy with agreed operational principles to guide practice and secure City-wide consistency
- Ensuring practice in risk management is as safe as it reasonably can be – a clear focus on minimising the risk of transmission within education settings and the wider community
- Influencing national policy – ongoing discussions with the DFE and collaborative regional practice
- Being a conduit for the system: absorbing, interpreting, filtering the daily streams of Government guidance as they have been released; delivering agile response times, securing compliance and consistency of approach Re-directing financial and people resources to deliver priorities; fill gaps and secure value for money, through an agile workforce response
- Using best endeavours to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and their families through vigilance and collaboration, delivering consistent and sustained multi-disciplinary/cross agency practice, support and intervention across Education, Social Care, Health, Police and Third Sector.



2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the positive impact of the partnership approach, in minimising the potential impact of Covid-19 on all children and young people within the education system; including those from vulnerable families. Support the implementation of the Outbreak control plan.
- 2) Consider the potential consequences that the loss of 4 months formal education will have on all children which is likely to include: low attendance rates and disengagement; mental health and well-being concerns; increase in exclusions; exposure of hidden harm; transport barriers; ongoing disruption in the event of Covid-19 transmission episodes and increased poverty as the economic consequences are felt.
- 3) Note the financial and physical resource implications and limitations to respond to the anticipated increase in demand for statutory support services (including early help, social care and SEND) as all children return to nursery, schools or colleges and the full impact of Covid-19 and the extended lockdown is exposed.
- 4) Be aware of the Outbreak Control Plan which is pivotal to Coventry's recovery strategy across both social care and education



3. Where are we now, what has the impact of Covid-19 been?

Overview:

- Strengthened Partnership working further
- Dynamic reset and recovery plans are in place at LA, Health and education settings level
- All partnership schools are prepared to welcome all children back to school in September 2020.
- Support services are ready to resume full 'Covid safe' operations.
- Children's Services, Police, Education continue to work together to address the presenting city-wide impact of Covid-19.



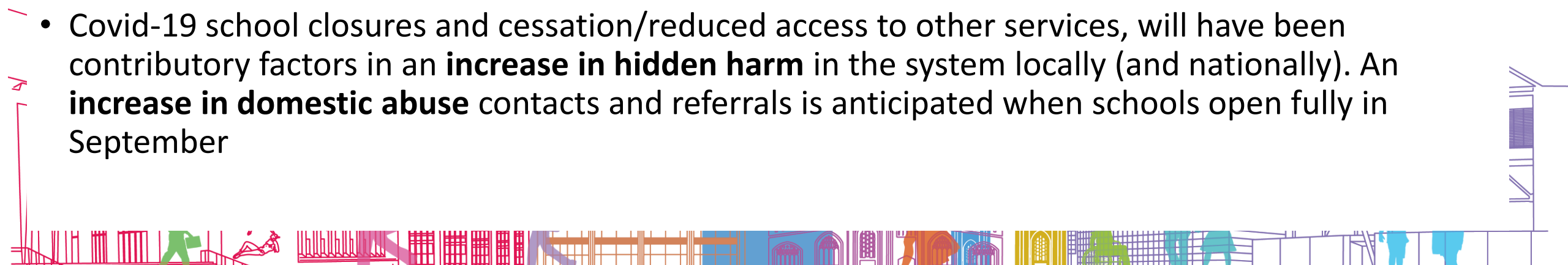
Keeping children safe in the community:

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We have continued to deliver ongoing protections, support and intervention to vulnerable families:

- Partnership working has continued to work effectively with Children's Services, Education, Schools, Police, and Health working together to minimise risks
- Most families have received weekly contact through telephone calls, virtual meetings and when the risk is high face to face including home visits. This includes daily contact with Carers of Looked After Children who are not attending school daily
- Overall volume of statutory work has reduced, but is now increasing month by month
- Covid-19 school closures and cessation/reduced access to other services, will have been contributory factors in an **increase in hidden harm** in the system locally (and nationally). An **increase in domestic abuse** contacts and referrals is anticipated when schools open fully in September



Keeping children safe in the community:



We have continued to deliver ongoing protections, support and intervention to vulnerable families cont'd:

- Four Family Hubs have remained open continuing to provide a 'here to help' function to families
- The Four Family Hubs and four Area teams closed in March are now returning to business as usual with a plan in place to open to the public the end of July /early August
- Sourcing Children's Placements locally, regionally and nationally has become increasingly difficult

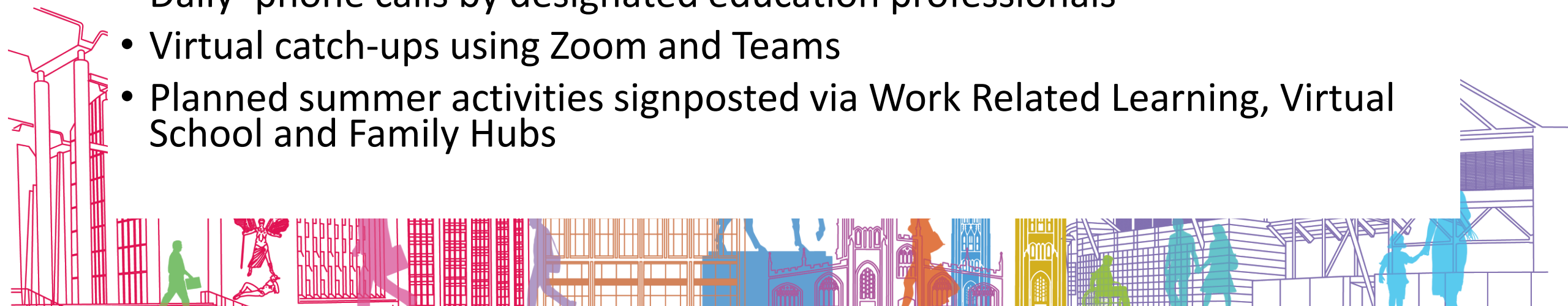
The financial impact of COVID-19 to Children's Services is estimated to be £1.5 million



Supporting vulnerable children not attending school



- Schools and education services set up a contact system for vulnerable children who did not require or took up a school placement – this extended across school holiday periods and complimented social work contacts. This included:
- Constant review of joint agency vulnerable children list
- Individual SEND Vulnerable child risk assessment
- Delivery of food parcels and door stop talks (schools)
- Daily 'phone calls by designated education professionals
- Virtual catch-ups using Zoom and Teams
- Planned summer activities signposted via Work Related Learning, Virtual School and Family Hubs



Keeping the school community safe

- Circa 260 iterations of guidance have flowed from central government for schools
- To secure the safe opening of schools to Key Workers and Vulnerable Children all LA schools and settings and the vast majority of Academies completed and submitted to the LA Covid-19 operational risk assessments.
- The process has been repeated for the planned full re-opening of schools in September 2020 to reflect new Government guidance
- Equality Impact Assessments have been completed by LA schools and submitted to the LA.
- Vulnerable Employee Risk Assessments (VERAs) in place to respond to the disproportionate impact Covid-19 has had on some groups including BAME
- It is evident that all schools are making best efforts to ensure that it is safe to re-open, some are making extra-ordinary arrangements!



Example of Local Authority Equality Impact Assessment analysis for LA primary schools:

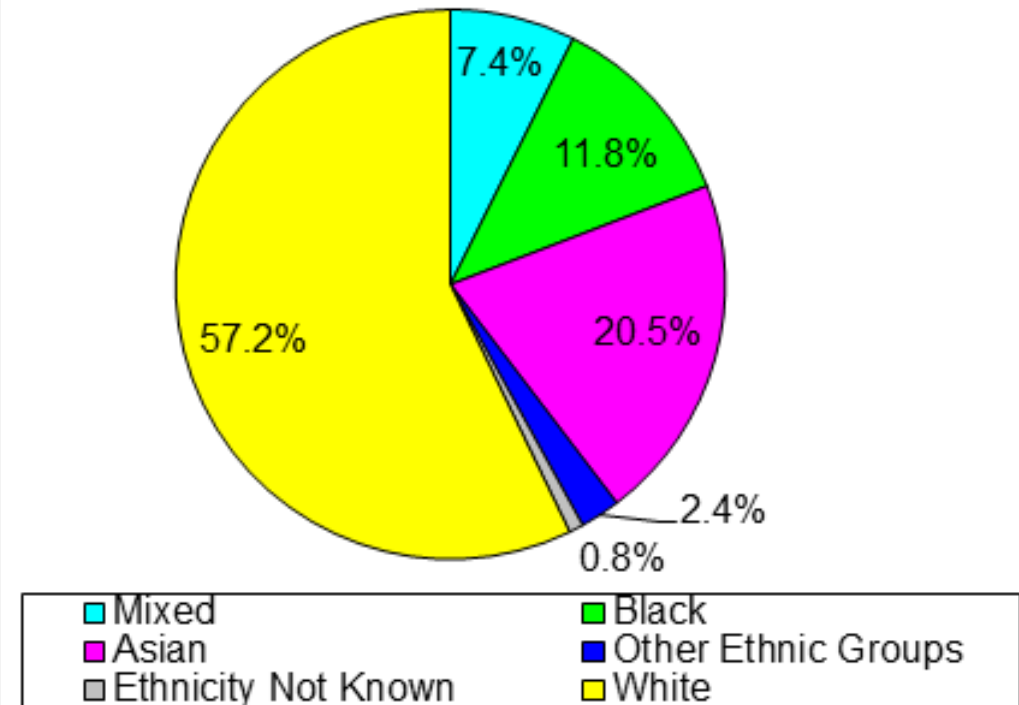
School specific data was provided to schools to inform the equality impact assessment which included a breakdown (where known) of:

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity

The graph shows the breakdown of ethnicity of pupils across all LA primary schools and exemplifies the information provided to LA schools

This slide indicates that circa 1/3rd of pupils fall within the BAME vulnerability

January 2020: Ethnic Origin of Pupils in Primary Schools (Percentage)



Current breakdown of attendance of vulnerable students

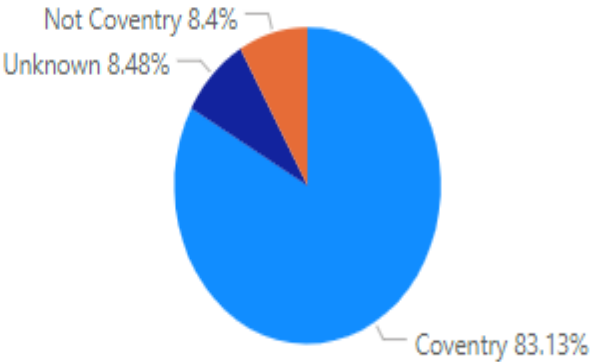


% s for those students who have an attendance record

Total number students aged 3 to 17 on 01/09/2019	Total number students aged 3 to 17 on 01/09/2019 in Coventry Schools	Number of Attendance Records WB 06/07	Number who attended 1 or more sessions WB 06/07	Student aged 3 to 17 who attended 1 or more sessions WB 06/07 as % of those in Coventry schools
2525	2099	874	559	26.63

School Phase (All Schools)	CIN	CP	LAC	LAC & CP	Early Help	29/06 No. attendance records	29/06 At school 1 or more sessions	29/06 % Attendance	06/07 No. attendance records	06/07 At school 1 or more sessions	06/07 % Attendance	01/06 to 06/07 Cumulative % Attendance
1 Primary	418	148	137	2	315	612	422	58.54	554	359	55.74	54.53
2 Secondary	264	74	120	0	213	180	108	46.41	157	94	43.97	44.65
3 Special	143	6	24	0	33	154	100	55.59	157	101	50.22	50.04
4 PRU	18	11	9	0	7	8	4	22.22	3	2	66.67	50.00
5 Nursery	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00
9 Not Available	185	32	267	0	97	2	2	90.00	3	3	95.65	78.57
Total	1028	271	558	2	666	956	636	56.07	874	559	53.06	52.17

Schools for students Aged 3 to 17



Current breakdown of school attendance by social care status (week beginning 29th June) :

Note: % of the "2099 students" based on those who have attended 1 or more sessions

CaseStatus	Num Students aged 3 to 17 in Coventry Schools	29/06 No. attendance records	29/06 % Attendance	06/07 No. attendance records	06/07 % Attendance	01/06 to 06/07 Cumulative % Attendance
CIN	898	427	52.64	397	51.14	48.09
CP	258	132	68.86	116	64.22	67.68
Early Help	621	243	47.07	229	44.69	41.69
LAC	320	152	68.29	130	62.30	65.83
LAC & CP	2	2	100.00	2	100.00	97.80
Total	2099	956	56.07	874	53.06	52.17

Note: Attendance data is only gathered for students attending Coventry Schools.

Free School Meals Update



- By mid April 100% of known eligible children were recorded as accessing FSM, from a starting point in mid-March of just over 20%
- Currently 11,300 school-age disadvantaged pupils (20% of the school population) are accessing FSM and an additional 929 students are in receipt through Further Education institutions.
- Approx. 30% of schools reported initial problems with the Government Edenred system – it is not known if parents were successful in redeeming vouchers during the initial stages of the launch
- Feeding Coventry has provided:
 - 1200 parcels where schools identified vulnerability but child not eligible for FSM up to the end of term
 - 1500 breakfast parcels and activity packs (per week) across 17 outlets across the city
 - 1500 food parcels (per week) for families that are struggling through the emergency food network



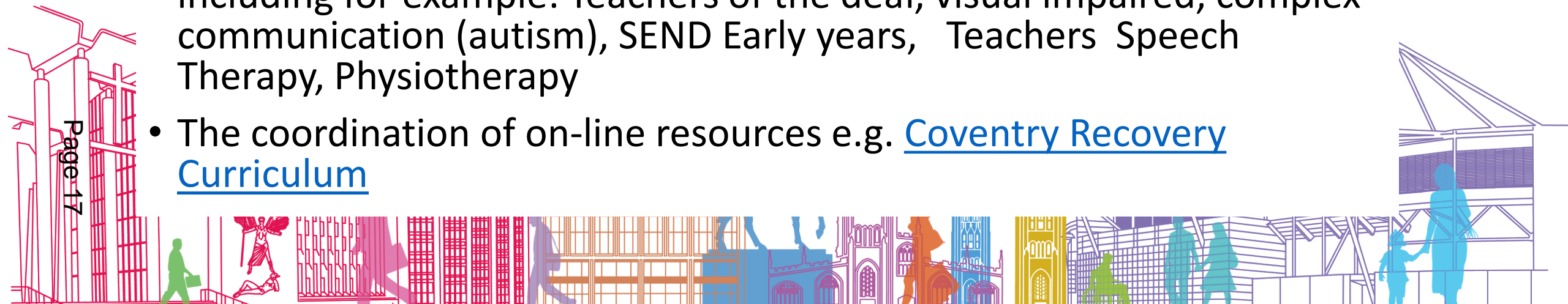
FSM Funding and Additional Costs

- FSMs funded up to £15 per week per child
 - DfE national FSM scheme vouchers (including holidays)
 - Schools not using the national scheme can claim additional costs as part of grant
- Additional Costs Grant
 - Very specific criteria for claims: (FSM for those not attending school, additional cleaning, increased premises costs) although schools can 'register' other costs
 - Schools should not claim if adding to historic reserves
 - Summer term claim window now closed, expect further claim windows later in year
- To-date Coventry maintained schools have reported:
 - Additional costs of £390K
 - Lost income of £580K
 - Claiming for £270K



Supporting Learning for Vulnerable Children and Young People – keeping in touch

- 1200 laptops have been reconfigured, updated and delivered to vulnerable children in conjunction with Children's Services, Virtual School, IT, transport
- Support for home schooling delivered directly by schools has been variable in style and content. Includes on-line learning and lesson packs delivered to doors or posted
- Supplemented by specialist SEND teachers and health professionals including for example: Teachers of the deaf, visual impaired, complex communication (autism), SEND Early years, Teachers Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy
- The coordination of on-line resources e.g. [Coventry Recovery Curriculum](#)



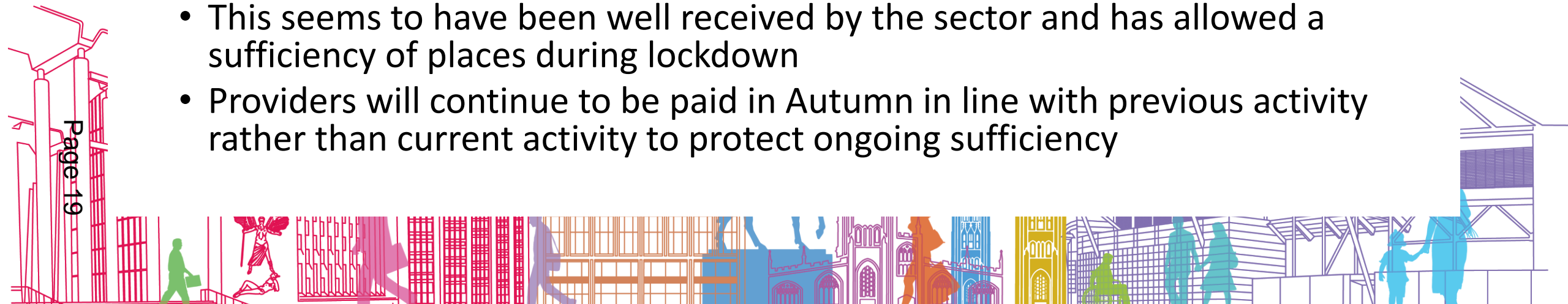
Additional Funding Streams:

- £650M catch up premium
 - Catch up premium to be paid to all state-funded mainstream and special schools and alternative provision
 - £80 per pupil – years R-11 for mainstream schools
 - £240 per place for special and alternative provision schools
 - Will be paid in 3 tranches – Autumn 20, Spring 21, Summer 21
- £350M National Tutoring Programme
 - For children and young people who need the most help
 - 5-16 programme – high quality tuition in state-funded primary and secondary schools from November 20. *Schools will be able to use their catch-up premium to cover cost of programme*
 - 16 – 19 fund for 6th forms, colleges and other providers to provide small group tutoring activity



Funding for sustainability of services

- School budgets / grants from government continued as normal, alongside expectation that suppliers continue to be paid
- Impact on LA services – traded, SEN Transport
- Early Years
 - EY providers are normally funded based on actual activity
 - For the Summer term we have funded based on either:
 - Adjusted Spr-20 actual data or
 - Sum-20 forecast numbers
 - This seems to have been well received by the sector and has allowed a sufficiency of places during lockdown
 - Providers will continue to be paid in Autumn in line with previous activity rather than current activity to protect ongoing sufficiency



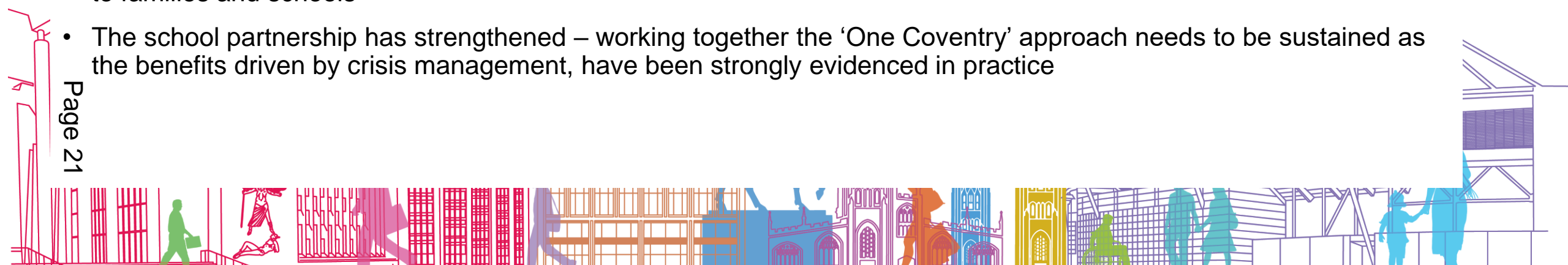
Challenges ahead

- Expectation of increased demand on front-line services across education and care will need to be absorbed, whilst sustaining Covid-19 responses → increased capacity challenges
- Implementing the Outbreak Control Plan in response to Covid-19 transmission in schools and the community will require secure contingency planning and resource switching and service disruption
- Home to school transport is an emerging challenge, that may impact on risk management in schools, pupil attendance, sufficiency and costs
- Resource implications



4. How has this changed what we know about the city, our priorities and plans?

- Increased pressure on the system has resulted in an increased risk for children and young people, services continue to do all they can, when they can, to ensure children and families in Coventry are safeguarded
- Children's Services will be anticipating an assurance visit prior to the standard Ofsted inspection
- The impact of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the progress with the Children's Services Strategic Plan-continuous improvement plan, deadlines for actions will have to be revised.
- The Transformation Programme will be reconfigured as a result of COVID-19
- Children's Services are considering opportunities for transforming the service in a post covid-19 world.
- Some LA education systems and processes have been delivered virtually leading to increased engagement, improved efficiency and productivity and improved outcomes – these benefits will be retained as part of a hybrid offer to families and schools
- The school partnership has strengthened – working together the 'One Coventry' approach needs to be sustained as the benefits driven by crisis management, have been strongly evidenced in practice



5. What opportunities are there to do things differently in the long term as we re-set?

- Opportunities for more flexible working to be offered to staff going forward
- One Coventry approach – build momentum
- Opportunities to explore more virtual training/learning options/including foster carers
- Opportunity to consider mix of face to face and on line resources to manage demand
- Technology could be used to compliment rather than replace physical visits (hybrid offer)
- Technology provides a stronger and broader reach – proved invaluable as a communication and training tool



6. What are the next steps?

- Reset and recovery - returning to business as usual – reopening buildings and managing increased demand and risks
- Re-prioritising the Children's Services Strategic Plan deadline and targets
- Planning for an Ofsted assurance visit
- Developing a plan for transforming services in a post covid-19 world



Recommendations re-cap

The Board is recommended to:

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