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Subject: UASC + Covid-19

Hi [redacted] NR

As discussed on the call just now, please see below details of the instances where LAs have pushed back following a request to provide support for UASC from our operational teams in IE and UKVI.

Start

UASC in Humberside

NCCU dealt with a clandestine encounter on the evening of 07/03/2020. Four [redacted] minors were encountered in the vicinity of the outskirts of Immingham docks. Humberside Police are currently running Op Newlan, whereby any illegal entrants that are encountered have a medical assessment. Following examination at A & E they were advised to self-isolate for 14 days. None of the individuals presented any COVID 19 symptoms and it is believed that advice was given due to the travel route to the UK.

Children's Services were contacted who said that they would not age assess or house the minors. NCCU, working with the Police, were required to push back hard on Children's Services involving several conversations before Children's Services eventually agreed to house the minors and conduct age assessments today.

UASC in Croydon

A [redacted] UASC walked into Asylum Intake Unit (AIU – Lunar House) late on Friday afternoon – on account of his symptoms and self-reported associations, the AIU team assessed him as high risk of having been exposed to COVID 19. He was isolated and referred to NHS 111.

AIU officers had to take responsibility for this vulnerable young person for almost 22 hours whilst the ambulance was awaited and Croydon BC Children's Service were unable/ unwilling to take responsibility for this young person.

The child was very uncomfortable (sleeping on our metal benches), he was exhausted, upset and needed a place of safety.

The ambulance attended and transferred the young person to the health facility which has been stood up by PHE & DHSE at the Holiday Inn at Heathrow to support self isolation. We believe that as the child will no longer be in the Croydon area, responsibility is likely to fall to Hillingdon Social Services. Colleagues are contacting Hillingdon to confirm this is the case and flag his vulnerability.

This is the second suspected case which has resulted in overnight waits for the ambulance service which have required AIU officers to remain on site in Lunar House overnight – we envisage this scenario happening more frequently going forward and it is imperative that we establish more appropriate arrangements to manage such situations as they are not in the best interests or conducive to the well being of our people or customers.