

Covid-19 Multi-Agency Briefings



Key areas for discussion:

Strategic leads from across the region are attending fortnightly multi-agency briefings currently hosted by the Police. This is a forum to come together to share challenges and to highlight risks. It also provides the opportunity to recognise areas of good practice and to give credit to those services who have adapted and "risen to the challenge" during this pandemic.

The latest briefing was held on Tuesday 19th May and the following areas were discussed:

- A "wrap around" service is in place to support care providers. This has been developed across BNSSG and includes Sirona Health Care, Adult Social Care, Contracts and Commissioning and the CCG providing support, training and guidance to providers around COVID-19 during the pandemic. It is envisaged that this service will be retained in the future and is highlighted as an area of good practice.
- Focus was also given on the use of IT during the pandemic. Examples included carrying out assessments remotely and virtual visits; using Skype to keep hospital patients and care home residents in touch with families. Again, these practices may be used in the long term.
- Pharmacies across the BNSSG area are signing up as a "safe-place" for victims of domestic abuse to seek support. Posters and cards advertising this service will be disseminated widely.
- The AD of ASC confirmed that most homeless people across North Somerset have now been accommodated. A forward plan in how to get those in temporary accommodation to more stable accommodation has been produced.

- Reporting and referrals into the police remain stable. Domestic abuse cases are down from last year, but the incidents are more severe. Use of third-party services such as NextLink are being encouraged.
- Guidance is due out around "virtual clinics". Weston hospital confirmed that they are using it for more routine follow-ups.
- As at 19th May it was reported that Weston Hospital had many more positive cases of COVID-19 with no beds available for elective surgery. (*Weston hospital is now currently closed to any new admissions*).
- Local authority data showed a 25% decrease in concerns.
- **We are With You** updated on their service which is continuing by phone calls and virtual visits. An increase on attendance is up from 75% to 82% with improved relationships between key worker and client having more open discussions, believed to be because of the virtual contact. Mobile phones have been given to the most "at risk" clients to enable them to keep in touch. Again, practice, in the long term, may change making use of IT systems.