

# Covid-19 Multi-Agency Briefings



## Key areas for discussion:

Strategic leads from across the region are attending monthly 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 28 July and the following areas were discussed:

- As the group has moved into a Recovery and Restoration phase the meetings have now dropped down to monthly. Terms of Reference for the group have been produced and signed off.
- The police gave an update around cuckooing. Due to the reduction in transport on rail and road network there has been a decrease in cuckooing and a decrease in drug supply from other areas, but there has been an increase in local drug supplies.
- Each organisation was asked to give an update on their current working arrangements and how they intend to function in the future. There is an increase in face to face contact across many services, but where an organisation can carry out their work from home, this is encouraged until at least September.
- The disadvantages of working from home and the impact on the mental health of employees was discussed.
- An increase in alcohol misuse was reported by We are With You. The drug ‘benzos’ is also being bought illicitly off the internet, with many people overdosing.

- The local authority representative from the Contracts and Commissioning team gave details of the Capacity Tracker, provided by central government to care homes in April. The tool is a work in progress and provides data around any potential issues a home may have. Sirona, public health and the local authority are also continuing with their weekly “wrap around” service to care homes.
- Nextlink who has joined the forum, reported a significant increase in referrals of domestic abuse, including a spike in: professionals; both younger and older groups; rural areas and the homeless.
- The National Probation Service is combining its recovery phase with its transition into a totally unified service, including the community rehabilitation service and domestic abuse programme. This is scheduled for June 2021.