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COVID OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

24 September 2020

DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED GROUPS

**PAPER FROM THE SRO ON DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED GROUPS AND
THE COVID-19 TASKFORCE**

1. Certain groups have been disproportionately adversely impacted by COVID-19. These groups include Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups, older people, and disabled people.¹ Preventing transmission of COVID-19 to and within these groups is critical to preventing the spread of the virus both within communities at increased risk, and in the general population.² This paper makes pressing recommendations to prevent transmission and reduce mortality among those that have been disproportionately adversely impacted by COVID-19. **Urgent action is needed to prevent the same issues being replicated that we are facing a second wave of infections.**
2. **The data at Annex A shows that ethnic minorities, disabled people, older people and men are at greater risk of contracting, and dying from, COVID-19.** It also shows that young people, women, ethnic minorities and single parents are disproportionately likely to suffer long-term adverse impacts from the measures taken to control COVID-19, including poor mental health. Indeed, Government data shows that between March and May ethnic minorities were issued with fixed penalty notices at a rate of 1.6 times higher than white people at a national level. Despite Home Office work with police councils to reduce disproportionate impacts, we must recognise that as Police engagement and enforcement will often be directed towards the most impacted communities, there

¹ For instance, older people have been disproportionately subject to shielding; minority groups and disabled people have disproportionately lost their jobs.

² Epidemics including TB, HIV and Ebola have disproportionately affected, and disproportionately become entrenched in, vulnerable and marginalised communities.