

- The NPCC are also looking to procure their own tests and are in discussions with DHSC and PHE on possible validation of these tests which they anticipate will be this week. NFCC are working with NPCC on joining the police procurement.

## **Domestic Abuse**

- Supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse is of paramount importance. I do not want them to feel even more vulnerable, staying at home with abusers but have confidence to leave and seek help at refuges and from the Police.
- My Home Office team and I have listened to charities and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner about the pressures the sector faces. On the weekend I announced a £2m fund that will help them address concerns over capacity as well as ensure their services remain accessible at all times.
- For victims, crucially, that means if your usual social contacts have been cut off, you can still seek help.
- Our support builds on the £750m package announced by the Chancellor to bolster charities.

We have also launched a new campaign to signpost victims to the support services available.

- Advice and support continue to be available to victims and survivors – including through the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, which is staffed by experts 24 hours a day, every day of the year – and the Government has announced a £1.6 billion COVID-19 fund for local authorities to support the most vulnerable.
- Widespread media reports of increases in calls to domestic abuse support services are not reflected in police recorded domestic abuse incidents, which remain similar to the levels seen at the same time last year. It is possible that victims' access to opportunity to report to the police is being restricted due to social isolation measures, and also possible that the widespread coverage has raised awareness and encouraged people to access services.

## **Vulnerable Children**

### *Intelligence picture and law enforcement response*

- Law enforcement partners have already assessed that it is highly likely the risk of online child sexual abuse (CSA) offending has increased; that we will face new county lines challenges driven by reduced drugs supply; and that domestic abuse, and its impact on children living in those households, will increase.
- Child sexual abuse is a hidden crime where there has historically been chronic underreporting. The police are not yet reporting an increase in reporting of CSA, but expert insight indicates a heightened risk of online child sexual exploitation, which is why we are taking action now.