

Crime and Community Tensions

- NPoCC assess that COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak is almost certain to continue to impact community tensions in the UK. It is highly likely that communities will experience sustained high levels of anxiety as the public absorb the impact of significant restrictions on daily life imposed by the Government on 23/03/2020.
- **Community Tensions:** Today NPoCC received numerous reports of individuals deliberately coughing and sneezing at others while walking by or in response to other incidents. Community tensions linked to COVID 19 continue to be reported across the UK with a significant increase since last week. NPoCC assess that given the opportunistic nature of a large volume of hate crime, it is a realistic possibility that COVID 19 related hate crime reports will decrease in the short term as fewer people go out in public and adopt social isolation measures. Today NPoCC received reporting from Norfolk that local councillors were concerned that members of the Roma community were not social distancing because they lacked access to relevant health information.
- **Public Order:** The closure of local premises, cancellation of community events, public incidents, including minor disorder, violence, theft as well as pubs and bars failing to comply with government instructions continue to be reported. NPoCC assess that it is likely that public incidents such as these will continue in coming days with a realistic possibility that theft from supermarkets will increase owing to perceived inability of individuals to purchase a sufficient quantity of items. NPoCC further assess that the Government's decision to close public spaces is likely to have a knock on effect on local communities, particularly where such spaces are of significant communal importance such as places of worship. With significant religious festivals approaching, NPoCC assess that it is likely that devout followers may seek to defy movement restrictions to observe these religious festivals Today's reporting includes members of Croydon's Islamic community wishing to attend the Mosque during Ramadan, despite Government instruction that it remain shut.
- **Domestic/Child Abuse:** NPoCC have received high volume of reporting relating to Domestic and Child Abuse, we assess these heightened levels of reporting are driven by social distancing measures put in place by HMG whereby individuals have been advised to stay at home and/or work from home. Reporting from today includes individuals complaining about ex partners refusing to return their children in line with family law orders as well as physical assaults, verbal abuse, threats and arguments over self isolation NPoCC

Communications and social media

Press / Media

- **Policing:** Several newspapers have today reported that police will be authorised to use force to send people back home if they refuse to obey the coronavirus 'lockdown'. Press Office is working on materials to be issued today on the introduction of new public health regulations to strengthen police enforcement powers and the Home Secretary will be recording a pooled clip.
- **Immigration:** There is speculation in the Telegraph and Mail that the Home Secretary wants to adopt a similar approach to the US and Iran and prevent passengers from coronavirus hotspots from coming to the UK. According to reports, the Home Secretary is seeking cross-Government support for the move that would stop the daily flights from Tehran, New York, Los Angeles and Beijing.
- Press Office has fed into lobby lines on the no recourse to public funds rules.
- Press Office continues to update its core Q&A, including working with DHSC and DfE to prepare reactive lines on expedited checks for health and social care professionals.

Digital

- Posting animations and graphics on the new package of support for police after the announcement has been made.
- Supporting content from OGDs (specifically No10 and DHSC)

Internal Comms

- G7 – SCS dial ins

Strat Comms

- The External Affairs team are having meetings with Domestic Abuse charities including SafeLives, Refuge, Women's Aid and Mankind to discuss key issues they are facing, and how we can support their services and amplify messaging. We are using these insights to shape a comms plan signposting supports and providing key messages to domestic abuse victims. We have also shared insights from calls to CSE stakeholders with policy, and are discussing next steps.