

**C-19 DEEP DIVE MEETING 20(49)**

**09:45-10:30, Friday 24 April 2020**

**Cabinet Room, No10 Downing Street and Teleconference**

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KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Overall picture and key risks: the following groups were highlighted of being of particular concern: the financially vulnerable, those suffering or at risk of domestic abuse, vulnerable children, and people requiring support in their own homes where it was unclear if they were still accessing that support. This was a dynamic picture, and new groups were arising over time. The food programme was highly important, but through Defra's work with supermarkets and other food delivery organisations there was a clearer picture of where support was being provided.
- The following key challenges were highlighted:
  - Data: there were significant challenges in gathering the data required to understand what support was being provided on the ground - in particular for the groups highlighted. This data was held by a range of agencies or local authorities, and there was a variable picture in quality. Simon Case was prioritising tackling this challenge.
  - State vs local and volunteer intervention: finding the right delineation between Government intervention as opposed to local level interventions was discussed. It was agreed that in many areas local support was more appropriate, but that it was essential for Government to have a clear picture across the board of how vulnerable groups were being supported. As had been agreed at the GPS MIG on Wednesday 22 April, Government had the overall responsibility to make sure that nobody was falling between the gaps.
  - Welfare state: consideration was required about how the welfare state might need to adapt to support those who were 'newly poor' because of the response to coronavirus.
  - Overall coordination: the Cabinet Office SRO (Simon Case) needed to bring together all departmental work on this programme, and work with the SRO for the shielding programme to ensure overall coherence between the two programmes.
- Narrative: the Government needed to make sure there was a clear narrative setting out the support being provided.

ACTIONS

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

1. **CABINET SECRETARIAT** (MARK SWEENEY) to work with Government Legal Service (JONATHAN JONES) to consider a cross cutting project on legal risks arising from the Government's covid responses and possible mitigations.
2. **HMT** to work with **DWP** to review what adaptations might be needed to the welfare state to support those who find they are newly poor because of the impact of coronavirus, and to feed these in to the **CABINET SECRETARIAT (STRATEGY TEAM)**.
3. The **GENERAL PUBLIC SECTOR IMPLEMENTATION GROUP** to oversee ongoing follow up work on improving data available on different vulnerable groups, the work of HMT and DWP to consider the support being provided by the welfare state, and making sure there was the right balance between Government and local intervention in supporting vulnerable people. Overall, the GPS MIG should make sure that the policy was being delivered on the ground, accurate information was being collected, and that all elements of Government are operating in an effective and joined up way. This should make sure there is no disconnect between shielded and non-shielded vulnerable. **SECRETARIAT** to schedule a follow up conversation in two-three weeks' time.