

83. **Domestic abuse victims** may be affected by the lack of expanded social contact. There remains a risk that their abuser takes control of the bubbling privilege in Name Redacted that further disadvantages the victim. In addition, a domestic abuse victim will often not be in a single adult household (unless the victim or abuser is a child). They will not be able to benefit from easements applied to the rest of England. Mitigations have been in place including government funding to domestic abuse charities.
84. **Pregnant women and new mothers**, who are at a heightened risk of mental health complications such as postnatal depression, would benefit from increased access to support from friends and family through wider gathering limits and the ability for people to stay overnight with them as well as social ‘bubbling’, although existing arrangements will be unaffected. However, there is evidence to suggest a higher risk from covid-19 for those in their third trimester of pregnancy, or with underlying conditions, and therefore the easing of restrictions applied to the rest of England may have increased their exposure to the virus were they applied in Leicester.
85. Single parents, who are more likely to be **women (86%²⁸)**, will continue to benefit from the bubbling policy if they live in single adult households. They may find it more difficult to cope with the continued limits on gatherings and overnight stays. This may adversely impact on their ability to access informal childcare from family members. This could disproportionately impact certain ethnic minorities; for example we know that 18.9% of **Black households** are made up of a single parent with dependent children²⁹, the highest percentage out of all ethnic groups for this type of household. Single parents with both adult and younger children living with them may be unable to benefit from bubbling, although they may face similar challenges to single parents with just younger children.
86. Young people, who report high levels of loneliness and concerns about coping during the lockdown, may be adversely impacted by the ongoing gatherings, overnight stays and bubbling restrictions. However, the measures are temporary and will be reviewed every two weeks, so any impact will only apply for as long as is proportionate and necessary to manage the public health risk. In a survey by Britain Thinks, younger respondents were more likely to report that they are not coping as well as usual during the Coronavirus lockdown (42% among 18-24 year olds), with this decreasing gradually by age bracket (among 65+ year olds only 20% reported the same). Young people are more likely to live in a flat share, which creates a challenging dynamic for bubbling – for example if more than one member of the household has a single household that they want to bubble with. Children and young people acting as carers may also be disadvantaged through restricted social interactions. Older people living alone will continue to be able to enjoy existing bubbling arrangements.

²⁸

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2019#links-to-related-statistics>

²⁹ [Census data for England and Wales](#)