

However, increasing the fine amount by a small sum could mitigate this concern. We deem it necessary and proportionate to enable the police to continue enforcing the social distancing measures, in order to manage the public health risks.

Part 2b – Initial findings on measures that could be introduced in phase two

The following measures should also be considered in the decision making process, but are planned for later phases of the roadmap to easing the lockdown. The associated impacts on different groups has been summarised:

Increasing social contact - ‘bubbling’

Expanding household bubbles to allow more social contact would have significant positive impacts on many individuals and disproportionately so within vulnerable groups, where the need for support is highest.

Young people, who report high levels of loneliness and concerns about coping during the lockdown could strongly benefit.

Similarly, individuals at the highest risk of isolation within their households (e.g. vulnerable children, victims of domestic abuse, LGBT groups and disabled people who are more at risk of anxiety) could be expected to benefit substantially from this measure. Domestic abuse victims may be better able to seek help (though there is a risk that their abuser takes control of the bubbling privilege in a way that further disadvantages the victim).

Single parents, who are more likely to be women, could also experience particular benefits in expanding their support beyond the household. It could assist informal childcare arrangements and would help new mothers, who are at a heightened risk of mental health complications such as postnatal depression, to access support from friends and family. Clarifying that midwives and health visitors can visit the home would also contribute to improved support for new mothers.

However, further data would be required to make a proper assessment of the ‘bubbling’ proposal. There could be unforeseen consequences, such as confusion over the rules and disagreement within households over the choice of who to bubble with. Perpetrators of domestic abuse may use the strict controls to their advantage, meaning that victims do not benefit. All of these aspects will require careful consideration.

Reopening pre-school and primary school

Loosening education restrictions on young children would have substantial benefits across different protected characteristics, and direct benefits for young children. It would benefit vulnerable children who are not attending school in great numbers (11% of those eligible), parents (particularly women) who we know are taking on more childcare and home schooling during this time, and are therefore unable to work; and children from certain