Cabinet Office

C-19 | Smarter NPIs Panel

Paper two

1 July 2020

1. How do we define ‘smart NPI’?

A positive definition might be:

A smart NPI is one which maximises the impact on transmission while minimising the economic and/or social impact.

A definition by exclusion might be:

A smart NPI is more granular than the closing or opening of a whole sector, but it is larger than the small-scale interventions undertaken by the CONTAIN programme. It is less costly than a lockdown, but not sufficiently costless that it should simply be incorporated into standard C-19 Secure guidelines.

A definition by context might be:

The lockdown in March was blunt. The process of unlocking - moving sector by sector - has also been broad brush. If we were to reintroduce NPIs - nationally or locally - we need a set of policies which are more nuanced to successfully manage transmissions while holding onto more of the facets of economic, social and public life that are important.

Q1: How would the panel define ‘smart NPI’?

2. How do we recognise a ‘smart NPI’?

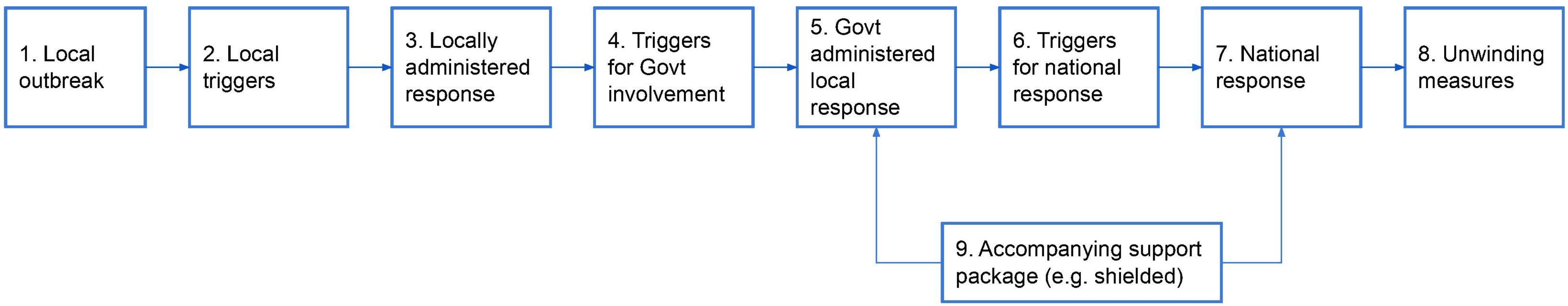
As well as a definition, we need a description of a smart NPI. Smart NPIs might be characterised by:

1. **Flexibility**: to be an effective contingency for outbreaks, smart NPIs should be easy to turn on and off.
2. **Simplicity**: compliance will depend to a large extent on whether these temporary rules are easily understood.
3. **Specificity**: smart NPIs will work on an identifiable sub-set of individuals, behaviours or businesses.
4. **Lower cost**: a smart NPI should have a smaller social or economic impact.
5. **Practicality:** to be deployed quickly, it should be possible to introduce an NPI without, for example, the need for new primary legislation.
6. **Fairness**: a smart NPI, or package of NPIs, should be able to target transmission without having a disproportionate group.
7. **Measurability:** we need to be confident about the effectiveness of the intervention. That means we need to be able to measure, and to measure at an acceptable cost, whether the approach works to reduce transmission and also to understand its impact on the economy, social factors etc.

Q2: What are the features which will characterise smart NPIs?

3. Which parts of the process would the panel consider?

Introducing smart NPIs will be part of a process.



A narrow focus for the panel would consider only the smarter NPIs themselves (steps 5 and 7) and the potential packages of NPIs. A broader focus would consider the triggers for these measures, the process for unwinding them, and the the support package they might require, for example where businesses or schools are closed (steps 4, 6, 8 and 9).

Q3: Which parts of the process should the panel consider?

4. What should we consider when developing smarter NPIs?

Leaving aside the question of breadth (previous slide), we suggest that the panel will want to consider:

1. **International comparators:** we need to study what has worked well elsewhere
2. **Impacts:** (see next slide)
3. **Behaviour and compliance:** how will people and businesses react to the intervention?
4. **Economic priorities:** how do target interventions to protect the most vulnerable sectors?
5. **Time-lags:** how quickly will an intervention change transmission?
6. **Scale**: will smart NPIs be different at local, regional or national levels?
7. **Transmission priorities:** what does the science tell us we should target? This would include consideration of superspreaders, clusters, high-risk settings
8. **Segmentation**: including whether an NPI can be targeted to at risk groups?
9. **Trade-offs:** How social, economic and public service NPIs work together and across one another? E.g. is it realistic to expect people to undertake economic activity (eg shopping) in a business as usual way if they cannot see their friends and family? What is the composite impact of different NPIs across multiple settings both on incidence and on our other key metrics?
10. **Applicability**: we also need to understand the contexts in which each NPI will or will not work - for instance, will it work in Winter and Summer, or just Summer? Will it work in urban and/ or rural settings, or in the community and/ or social care?

Q4: What are the other key issues that the panel should consider?

5. Evaluation framework for 'smart' NPIs

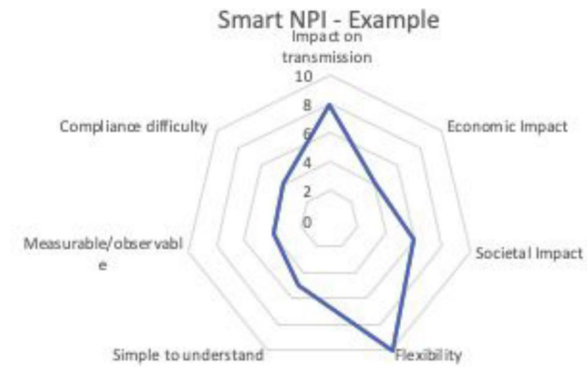
Past: We have so far assessed the easing of NPIs primarily on the basis of their impact on transmission and their economic and social costs. These have qualitatively been given RAG ratings and used to rank measures.

Executive summary – proposals and impact summary

Qualitative Impact Rating
- Net negative impact of acting now
- Moderate to small positive impact of acting n
- Significant net positive impact of acting now

Policy area	Phasing	Proposal	Assessment of impact* Health	Economic	Social
1. Schools *DfE*	June 1 for EY, R, Y1 &7, 15 June for Y10 & 12	**Re-open primary schools** for Early Years, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 fulltime from June 1; Years 10 & 12 in secondary schools to receive face to face support			
2. Non-essential retail *BEIS / HMT*	June 1 for Phase 1 Second phase starts June 15 for option (a) or June 22 for option (b)	**Phased re-opening - Select 1 of these 4 options:** **(a)** If 5 test headroom is not limited, open all stores. If headroom is limited, open retail below 800m^2 **(b)** To monitor impact, open retail below 280m^2 on 1 June along with car showrooms and outdoor markets (larger stores 22 June) **(c)** Open sub-sectors with a lower risk of transmission first **(d)** Open across the UK subject to the R being consistent across regions, with city centre retail a potential exception			
3. Households / Social contact *DHSC / MHCLG / DCMS / DEFRA*	TBC	**i. Extend household bubbles: Select 1 of these 2 options**: **(a)** Allow all households to partner with another **(b)** Introduce targeted approach for those benefiting most from contact			
	TBC	**ii. Indoor and outdoor gatherings: Select potentially multiple options from :** **(a)** More than 2 people can meet outdoors **(b)** Enable meeting in private gardens / outdoor spaces **(c)** Indoors with 2m distance **(d)** Allow legally binding marriages to take place and birth registration at register office			
4. Shielding and support-ing the vulnerable *DHSC / MHCLG*	Assurance before 30 June	i. NERVTAG will report on 26 May on segmenting the population by risk		*TBD*	
	Assurance before 30 June	**ii. Amend shielding regime - Select 1 of these 4 options:** **(a)** Same cohort with a one year extension [~2m people] **(b)** Extend to include households of those shielding [~5m] **(c)** Extend to all over 70 [~10m] **d)** Extend to the entire clinically vulnerable cohort [~16m]			
5. Outdoor spaces *DHSC / MHCLG / DEFRA*	15 June for elite use of gyms and pools Later review point for other proposals	**Re-open public places in the following order**: **15 June:** Enabling gyms and pools to open for use by elite sports people only. **Later:** Outdoor museums, galleries and drive-in cinemas; making clear that the public can visit other outdoor venues, such as zoos or farms; opening places of worship for private prayer and graveside rituals			

Future: For the next phase of Smart NPIs, we may want to evolve this framework to include a wider set of criteria. An example illustration of a Smart NPI framework:



*Note: These factors are illustrative and have not been finalised.

Further, any evaluation will need to be context specific reflecting: features of the outbreak, such as the main setting in which it is occurring eg care homes vs general population; features of the local area, eg key local industry, urban vs rural; and seasonality - e.g. Winter vs Summer.

Q5. How should we evaluate smart NPIs?

6. Forward look for future meetings

Meetings to last between an hour and 90 minutes depending on content. The proposal is:

1 July	Agree ToRs; forward look of meetings; NPI design template and evaluative framework
3 July	A) International comparators B) Review of sectors at greatest economic risk C) Review of science on most high-risk settings
8 July	Consideration of NPI design returns (from departments); insights on compliance and behaviour
10 July	Packaging of smart NPIs; Interaction between economic, social and public services.
15 July	Triggers (data) and contexts (what information would Ministers need to make an informed decision on smarter NPIs)
17 July	Agree interim report and forward work plan

Q6: What do you want to consider in future meetings?

7. Summary of questions

Q1	How would the panel define ‘smart NPI’?
Q2	What are the features which will characterise smart NPIs?
Q3	What parts of the process should the panel consider?
Q4	What are the other key issues that the panel should consider?
Q5	How should we evaluate smart NPIs?
Q6	What do you want to consider in future meetings?