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**Subject:** RE: COMMISSION: Hidden Harms and Winter Contingency Planning

NR, NR Caroline, NR Alice, NR

Thanks for your time yesterday briefing both Minsters Atkins and Malthouse at the Deep Dive as a follow up to the attached briefing note. Please see readout below.

**Actions:**

- **For Officials**
  - Update Kit on discussion with BTP / Policing colleagues about enacting learning from 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown into operational planning;
  - Liaise with DfE officials about using schools as appropriate space for face to face meetings with young people being helped by SV charities during lockdown. Escalate to PO/Ministers if push back;
  - Draft letter to VRUs to go out asap next week;
  - Provide Minister Atkins' office with data on correlation between school openings and a reduction in child UK nationals being referred into NRM referrals
- **For Private Office:** seek Ministerial meeting with Nick Gibb

**Serious Violence stats (led by: NR)**

1. Crime trends from the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown showed a considerable decrease in assaults with sharp object, however these figures have 'bounced back' in subsequent months. Aug 2020 saw some of the highest figures in recent years;
2. Homicide figures have been more stable during lockdown;
3. For upcoming restrictions we need to be conscious of any similar 'bounce back' in figures.

**County Lines (led by Caroline Hart)**

4. What did we do during 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown:
  - Drugs are a key driver of SV – drug supply through the border interrupted by 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown – but County Lines continued to operate;

- Clear learning from 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown is that County Lines is a resilient business model. We saw a shift from rail to road with criminal gangs showing some “innovative” approaches (like pretending to be key workers);
- April – June = drug offences up 30%
- CL law enforcement programme was active throughout;
- Extra investment in ANPR;
- Pro active engagement at the border (inc. Op Venetic)
- Intelligence during period = Worked with charities and DfE to gather intelligence and listen to what was happening on ground

5. Approach to 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown:

- Build on good practice given we have a better idea of how County Lines may operate during national restrictions
- Schools remain open this time so we hope to increase outreach through St Giles Trust programme.
- Working with DfE to ensure that statutory services are still reaching out to children

6. Minister Malthouse asked that we work with BTP to ensure their operational plans are following the learning from the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown **ACTION: grateful if Kits office can be provided an update on this in due course**

**Serious Violence (led by NR)**

7. What did we do during 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown:

- Intensive work with VRUs – reinforced messaging through workshops
- Additional direct support to large national charities as well as smaller pots of funding to over 300 charities through DCMS fund – smaller pots;
- Existing charitable outreach programmes continued and went online
- DfE funded Barnardo’s for the ‘See, Hear, Respond’ service

8. What did we learn:

- VRUs were good at adapting;
- The Youth Endowment Fund will be reporting soon on their work soon in relation to lessons learned during lockdown;
- Difficult to build up engagement with new young people via online services.

9. Approach to 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown:

- We want to mimic good practice with VRUs;
- Divert pillar – we need to make sure statutory services as well as broader assistance (e.g. Barnardos service) are able to continue;
- Asks of DfE – we need a real focus on attendance (particularly in AP);
- The sector have flagged an issue in relation to finding appropriate space for face to face meetings with young people during lockdown. Suggestion that schools be used. Minister Atkins said using schools felt like an easy and obvious step. **ACTION: officials liaise with their DfE counterparts on this and escalate to Private Office/Ministerial level if there is any push back.**
- **NR** suggested a joint letter from both Ministers to VRUs and Chiefs about our expectations during this lockdown period. Both Ministers happy with this suggestion and asked to see a draft asap next week. **ACTION: officials to send draft VRU letter to PO**
- Minister Atkins expressed frustration at lack of engagement from DfE and suggested she seek a meeting with Minister Gibb to discuss attendance and after school clubs **ACTION: PO to set up**
- Further advice will come up on priorities fund

**Modern Slavery (led by Alice Matthews)**

10. What did we do during 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown:

- Brought in certain changes like card payment system to reduce face to face contact – many of these policy changes have been continued throughout lockdown. Payment cards likely to stay in place long term;