INNOVATING DURING THE PANDEMIC

As part of a UKRI funded project, questionnaires were sent to all police forces in England and Wales, followed by interviews with DA leads and other senior officers in Avon and Somerset, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Dyfed-Powys, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Merseyside, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire.

Below is a summary of innovative police responses during the first COVID-19 lockdown.

- Use of multiple media platforms to reinforce the message that the police were still available for victims of abuse
- Use of community radio and poster campaigns stressing ‘business as usual’
- Leaflets on DA distributed at food banks
- Use of Facebook Q and A sessions to provide advice to diverse and hard to reach audiences
- Use of community leaders to encourage trust in police
- Online reporting tools made available on police websites
- Putting officers in supermarkets at particular times to provide advice or provide route to report offences
- Working with local shops and pharmacies to provide safe spaces for victims of domestic abuse
- Analytics used to identify high risk victims who had not been in contact
- Analytics used to identify high risk offenders
- Delivery of food parcels to high risk DA victims if food poverty was an issue
- Ring doorbells provided to high risk victims
- Suspects on bail reminded of bail conditions issued by police or by the courts
- Implementing a single point of contact for all domestic abuse support
- Daily briefings for police officers
- Use of online MARAC daily or weekly to ensure speedy consideration of cases

Risks

- Abstraction levels
- Under-staffing of analytical sections
- Innovations not evaluated risking dissipation of resources and efforts
- Digital exclusion for non-English speakers and hard to reach audiences
- Lack of resource to embed innovation as normal practice

For more details of this project see

https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/research/coronavirus-research/the-shadow-pandemic/

Professor Sandra Walklate
Professor Barry Godfrey
Dr Jane Richardson

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Available briefing papers:

Domestic Abuse: Responding to the Shadow Pandemic Project
Domestic Abuse in England and Wales 1770-2020
Rapid, Remote and Responsive Research During COVID-19
Innovating during the Pandemic: policing domestic abuse and multi-agency risk assessment conferencing (MARACs)