

Covid-19 and Coming out of Lockdown

Changing Context and Challenges and Opportunities for Social Care

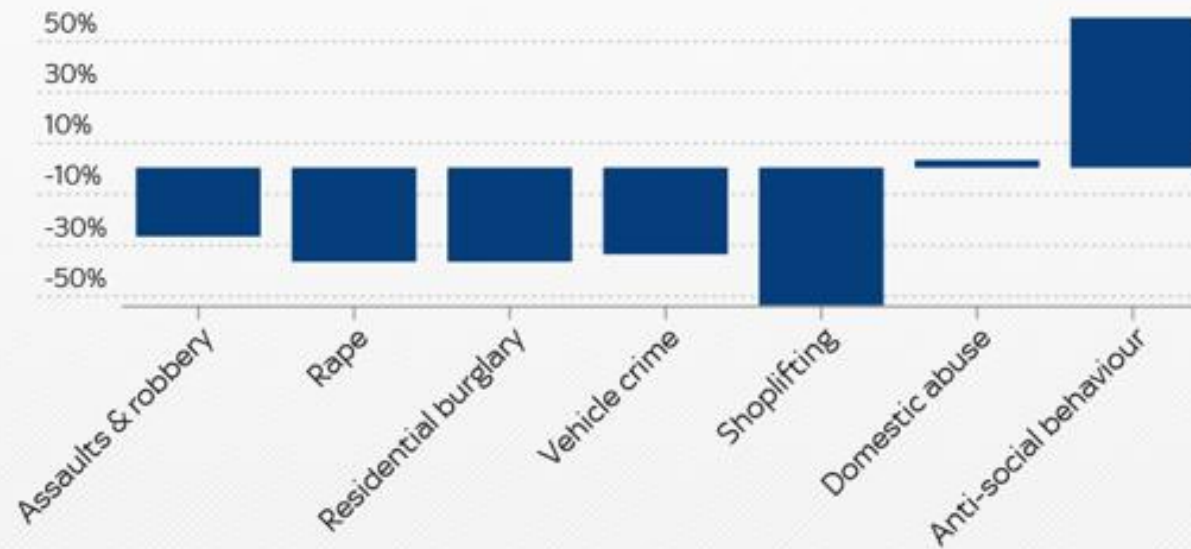
**PCFSW and What Works Centre
Webinar**

18 June 2020

Dr. Peter Buzzi

Serious crime falls but domestic violence increases

Fines for anti-social behaviour was up largely due to people ignoring lockdown restrictions



SOURCE: National Police Chiefs Council

Changes in Criminal and Gang Activity

- Reduced gang activity?
- Reduced county line activity?
- Reduction in cocooing and lack of access to “trap houses”
- Reduction in drugs supply
- Emergence of new synthetic drugs and increase in drug prices
- Reduction in crimes such as burglary because people are at home
- Reduction in trigger offenses related to drug use
- Increased fraud, cybercrime
- Various forms of financial crimes
- Increased social media taunting

Impact on Children and Children Services

- Reduced referrals
- Reduced incidents of children going missing
- Increased concerns, anxieties and complexity in practice
- Evidence of better experiences by children looked after
- Greater challenges for children in need, child protection and care leavers
- Some children who were at risk of harm seem to be at higher risk of harm
- Children and families who were not known to services and were not considered at risk, now may be at risk
- Increase in social media activity combined with unregulated social venues
- Recruitment campaign online and offline
- From social media taunting to street violence

Child-centred, Relationship-based Practice and Systemic Thinking

- Changing context of society and practice giving rise to new needs and risks
- Creative response by practitioners and local authorities have enabled years of progress in weeks
- Important learning highlighting the need to adopt, adapt, and innovate
- Maintaining a child-centred, relationship-based and systemic focus

Covid-19: Impact on Practice and Services

- Invisibility of children and families leading to unprecedented challenges
 - Hidden abuse, neglect and exploitation
 - Positive feedback and positive experiences for children looked after
 - Concerns for children in need, child protection and care leavers
 - Some looked after children appear to have fared well, but concerns about many care leavers – adolescent mental health, suicide and self-harm risks
 - Children with autism/learning disabilities
 - Children complex medical needs/shielding children and families
 - Differential impact on BAME communities
 - Workforce impact – mobile working, connection, risk
- Reduced referrals accompanied increased concern anxiety and complexity
 - Hidden abuse, neglect and exploitation
 - More child-centred practice and focus safeguarding on wellbeing rather than safet
 - Concerns for children in need, child protection and care leavers
 - Some looked after children appear to have fared well, but concerns about many care leavers – adolescent mental health, suicide and self-harm risks
 - Children with autism/learning disabilities
 - Children complex medical needs/shielding children and families
 - Differential impact on BAME communities
 - Workforce impact – mobile working, connection, risk

Guidance developed in partnership with The PCFSW network & Social Work England

We are working with Social Work England to develop new practice guidance and support practitioners here is a list of the available guides:

- ***Covid-19: An Ethical Response: this is a guide on ethics***

<https://esafeguarding.org/publications/PSW-and-SWE-Coronavirus-Ethical-Response-and-Best-Practice-Guide-20200505.pdf>

- ***Guidance for Risk Assessment:***

<https://esafeguarding.org/publications/PSW-and-SWE-Best-Practice-Guide-for-Prioritizing-Children-and-Families-Needs-and-Risks-20200505.pdf>

- ***Guidance for Video Calls and Online/Virtual Home Visits:***

<https://esafeguarding.org/publications/PSW-and-SWE-Best-Practice-Guide-for-Video-Call-and-Virtual-Home-Visit-20200505.pdf>

- ***Guidance for Assessing Online Risks, Harm and Resilience and Safeguarding of Children and Young People Online:***

<https://esafeguarding.org/publications/PSW-and-SWE-Best-Practice-Guidance-for-Assessing-Online-Risks,-Harm-and-Resilience-and-Safeguarding-Children-and-Young-People-Online-2020-05-26.pdf>

Questions & further information

To join the national network for digital practice, research and wellbeing and access other helpful tools and resources, please email:

PSWresearch@esafeguarding.org

➤ **For questions and further details please contact:**

➤ **Claudia Megele @ClaudiaMegele**

➤ **Dr. Peter Buzzi @MHChat**

➤ **email: PSWresearch@esafeguarding.org**