

PPP Members Briefing Bulletin #5

Public Protection Partnership

Bracknell Forest
West Berkshire
Wokingham

.....STOP PRESS.....

At the time of going to press 2 new regulations have been announced. It is now a legal obligation for premises (hospitality) to capture contact details for test & trace and to display the new venue Government QR code. Also hospitality businesses will need to restrict size of bookings/ customer sitting together to 6 and prevent mingling outside of these groups. A further briefing from us will be issued shortly.

New Regulations

At the end of July Local authorities were given a variety of new powers relating to managing covid risks relating to certain premises, events or public spaces. The following is a brief summary of these important local powers:

The new Regulations give Local Authorities the powers to issue directions under certain circumstances namely that:

- the direction responds to a serious and imminent threat to public health in their area; and
- the direction is necessary to prevent, protect against, control or provide a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection of coronavirus; and
- the prohibitions, requirements or restrictions imposed by the direction are a proportionate means of achieving that purpose.

Before exercising these powers the LA must take steps to:

- gather sufficient evidence to demonstrate that these tests have been met
- consult with the Director of Public Health and the police
- have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (s.149 of the Equality Act 2010)
- have regard to the need to ensure the public has access to essential public services
- be clear about why they are taking directive action and communicate this clearly to the Secretary of State, the persons to whom the direction applies and, where appropriate, those impacted by the direction

The Secretary of State may direct a Local Authority to issue a direction where he considers the conditions above have been met, and can also direct a Local Authority to revoke an existing direction (with or without a replacement direction) where the above conditions are no longer met.

Premises

In relation to premises local authorities can make directions about individual premises, for the purpose of:

- closing the premises
- restricting entry to the premises
- securing restrictions in relation to the location of persons in the premises

Restrictions on events

Certain events (or types of event) may be prohibited from taking place, e.g. a planned event at which the numbers of people expected to seek to use a space, or the nature of a particular event, would make it unsafe due to coronavirus transmission.

Directions issued by the Council may only have the effect of imposing prohibitions, requirements or restrictions on the owner, occupier or organiser of premises for an event.

Closure of a public outdoor place

Directions can also be issued for the closure of, or restriction of access to, a public outdoor place may be directed, e.g. a planned event, or where past experience indicates a high risk that the numbers of people expected to seek to use a space would make it unsafe, including for example an enclosed square.

Once a direction is made, people will not be allowed to enter or remain in the area, subject to the terms of the direction, without a reasonable excuse. The Regulations provide a non-exhaustive list of reasonable excuses, which include that people may enter the land where it is reasonably necessary for work purposes.

Although all possible uses of the power cannot be known at present, it is expected that it would not be exercised to restrict social interaction between people living in the area and outside.

Directions should not prevent people from travelling within an area if the start and end of their journeys are outside it.

The Role of PPP

The powers to enforce these provisions are delegate to certain officers within PPP. We have been working with colleagues from public health and corporate leadership teams to agree processes to be followed before the powers are exercised. This has included developing internal and corporate procedures, providing briefings on the new legislation, working with partners from TVP on protocols and preparing to enforce the rules in a practical setting.

Enforcement

In terms of enforcement a designated officer may issue a prohibition notice to a person who contravenes a direction. Where the police consider that an event is being held in contravention of a direction, they may direct the event to stop, direct a person to leave the event, or remove a person from the event.

Penalties and Appeals

If over 18 years of age: a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice (reduced to £50 if paid in 14 days) is for first offence. This is doubled for each subsequent offence up to a maximum of £3200. Any appeal is to the Magistrates Court or review by the Secretary of State.

Service Requests

Covid 19 and non-Covid 19 related complaints and enquiries continued to rise during the last two months with an overall increase in 18% of cases in July and 33% increase in August compared to 2019. Covid 19 complaints were to 12% of all reactive work, with 143 in July and 136 in August.

We are still experiencing an increase in bonfire and noise complaints, both higher than in 2019. After a decrease in planning consultations an increase was seen in August.

Consumers knowing my rights have also increased as well as the number of complaints re unsafe goods and scams.

Test & Trace

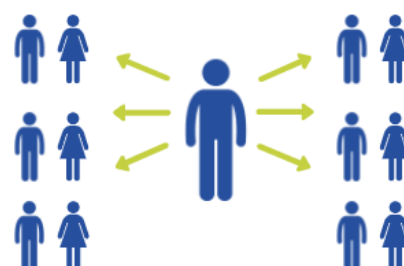
As has previously been reported in these Bulletins, as part of the National Test and Trace System, Environmental Health is the 'front door' for positive case notifications from PHE in relation to high risk settings. Reports are received via our CV19 Notifications inbox which is monitored seven days a week from 09.00 to 17.00. When positive notifications are received, officers act on the instruction of PHE and coordinate the LA's response to pull together the appropriate officers for an Incident Control Team. This team would include the Consultant in Public Health, the Subject Matter Expert (most likely Environmental Health) and any other appropriate officers depending on the situation. EH would subsequently follow up on any actions required by the Incident Control Team.

High Risk Premises can also report suspected cases directly using the CV19 Notifications inbox. The PPP Covid Duty Team is in place to co-ordinate these

notifications, inform PHE to determine whether they are connected to other positive cases in the setting and ensure that both the Consultant in Public Health and the Subject Matter Expert (if different from EH) are also informed. The team can advise on testing, infectious disease control and if necessary set up a Local Authority Response Team to ensure that the incident is properly managed and controlled. This team can include officers from other disciplines such as Communications.

This work commenced in July and there has been a steady increase in the number of notifications, both positive and suspected coming into this inbox. Until the start of September there had been one officer dealing with notifications. This has now been increase to 2 officers due to the high volume of notifications coming through, and their complexity.

We have also seen a sharp increase in notifications this week. There have been approximately 45 high risk settings that notifications have been received from. These range from suspected cases that have gone in to test negative, to complex series of notifications that involve a number of premises where there is possibly links to positive cases. The former are extremely time consuming involving reviewing of the notifications, ensuring the correct people are notified, attending LA Response Meetings and / or Incident Management Teams run by Public Health England, and carrying out site visits and reviewing procedures and risk assessments to ascertain compliance with Covid legislation.



Business & Planning Act - Update

This new legislation is now in force. We have already received a number of consultations requesting extension to construction hours. Highways colleagues have been informing us of new Pavement licenses approved so that the Licensing team can check that Premise licence holders have notified us that they are using the new requirements under the Act and a notice to this effect is displayed on the premises. We have added information on our website for potential premises licence holders and request they advise us via our online form.



Case Management

The Courts are up and running but there are still with significant delays due to the backlog of cases. We have not had many PPP cases concluding during August as it is always a quieter month during normal circumstances in any event. The majority of our Magistrates Court cases were initially given a nominal date of the 30th June during lockdown but have now been allocated new hearing dates between September and December as the Courts start to try and return to some form of normality.

Events



The Safety Advisory Group work along with the impact of events taking place across the PPP area. A SAG meeting has been held virtually. For events which are in the planning stage as well as for those which a formal SAG is not required we are ensuring the events have an event site specific Covid Risk Assessment and full consultation with Public Health is taking place.

Officers have attended a number of events both prior to opening and during the event. Over the Bank Holiday weekend Officers attended the Medicine festival in Wasing, West Berkshire for checks on health and safety, food hygiene, licensing and noise as well as Covid requirements. At the beginning of September Officers also attended The Pub in the Park in Remenham, Wokingham Borough.



Animal Warden Service

As of the 1st September the Bracknell Animal Warden Service has been brought back to have an in house service during normal working hours with Dog Busters continuing to support us for out of hours stray dogs. We have now added our dog fouling (and rat reporting) data onto our internal interactive map. This data will be updated monthly and will show us areas of concern for with dog fouling or reports of rats. The dog fouling data will be used by our wardens to determine what areas need to be patrolled across the three districts and make sure we are a presence in the right areas. Residents can report instances of dog fouling / rat reporting using the links below:

<https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk/dogfouling>
<http://wokingham.westberks.gov.uk/dogfouling>

Stray dog collection continues to be busy, including picking up a heavily pregnant dog that has now had a litter of puppies. The bitch and puppies are all currently with Battersea dogs home.

1st July - 9th September 2019

	Bracknell	West Berks	Wokingham
Handled	13	28	3
To Rescue	4	2	2

1st July - 9th September 2020

	Bracknell	West Berks	Wokingham
Handled	10	14	17
To Rescue	3	5	7

Licensing & Applications

Liaison meetings with the private hire and hackney carriage trade continue virtually. In August the Bracknell Forest Taxi Liaison Group met and Wokingham at the beginning of September. The West Berkshire meeting is to be arranged soon.

The Institute of Licensing are now offering training courses which will be delivered remotely via video conferencing, with the trainers delivering the training live via video conferencing with opportunities for questions from delegates throughout the day.

Unfortunately the next Councillor training day is already fully booked however there are other courses available. Please see their events page for more details at:

<https://www.instituteoflicensing.org/Events>

Air Quality

All 3 appraisal reports have been received and all reports approved. The feedback was very reassuring for each.

Bracknell Forest: "The report is a good source for members of the Public to find out about air quality in their area. The Council should continue their hard work."

West Berkshire: "The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance".

Wokingham: "Overall the report is detailed, concise and satisfies the criteria of relevant standards. The Council should continue their good and thorough work."

Air Quality Monitoring

We now have the April – June continuous monitoring data and can see the effect of lock down on the local air quality within the Air Quality Management Areas. Sites in Twyford Crossroads, Wokingham Town Centre

and Downshire Way Bracknell all showed reductions compared to 2019 however Greenham Road Newbury showed a decrease in April and May but not June. The bias corrected diffusion tube readings will not be available until the Annual Screening Reports 2021, however they are all also showing a downward trend in Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).

Fly Tipping Campaign

The Directed Surveillance authorisation expired at the end of July following which a further campaign will be developed.

There were 18 separate social media posts on Facebook and Twitter during the campaign which resulted in a combined reach of 6,241 views. There were also 190 views to the campaign page on the PPP website.

FIND A LICENSED WASTE CARRIER, OR YOU'LL PAY!

! **Make sure the waste removal service you use is licensed.**

! **If they fly-tip your waste, you could receive a £400 fixed penalty notice.**

FLY-TIPPERS BEWARE. WE'RE ON TO YOU.

Approved service provided by
Bracknell Forest Council,
West Berkshire Council and
Wokingham Borough Council



**Public Protection
Partnership**

**Bracknell Forest
West Berkshire
Wokingham**

Protecting the Vulnerable

Since the last bulletin there were two major scams reported in our area. Messages were promptly circulated via press release, social media, website and a radio interview regarding the following:

Fraud Alert in Bradfield Southend and Pangbourne

Both cases reported in August were courier fraud. Courier fraud is where a person receives a call from someone pretending to be from their bank and tells them there is a problem with their bank cards or bank account and they need to handover their cards or some cash to 'their trusted associate' who will be along to your home, or arrange to meet you somewhere to collect cards/cash etc. In both of the cases reported the criminals made a telephone call first and then came to the victims houses to collect the bank cards, they also asked for their card pin numbers.

For full details see link here:

<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/news-articles/fraud-alert-in-bradfield-southend-and-pangbourne/>

Loft Insulation Scam

Residents in Bracknell, Sandhurst and Crowthorne, particularly those that are retired, were targeted for spray loft works at the cost of several thousand pounds, typically £4,000.

The phone calls were blinding the residents with false information regarding pathogens, glass fibre, condensation and damp problems in the loft potentially affecting the health of those living in there. The company are very persistent and pushy trying to get a survey.

**A shared service provided by
Bracknell Forest Council, West
Berkshire Council and
Wokingham Borough Council.**



For full details see link here:

<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/news-articles/loft-insulation-scam/>

As well as the above specific scams we also continued to communicate various messages on all of our channels relating to more generic scams of cyber fraud, romance scams and phishing.

Unlicensed Ice Cream Van Traders

An update from the an article in the last bulletin regarding unlicensed ice cream van traders. Our social media messaging was successful and some traders have now applied and street trading consents have been issued.



Weight Restrictions

In the last two months 89 checks took place. There was also a joint operation with Thames Valley Police in Bracknell at the end of August with regards to checking for overladen vehicles. A total of 8 vehicles were stopped, of which four were taken to the weighbridge with two been overladen.

Our regular traffic surveillance of weight restricted areas also continues. See across for a snapshot of one week's surveillance results:

The Ridge, Cold Ash - No breach ✓
Cold Ash Hill - Three breaches ✗
Slanting Hill, Hermitage - No breach ✓
Lower Denford, Hungerford - No breach ✓
Sonning Bridge - No breach ✓
Duffield Bridge, Woodley - No breach ✓
Butts Hill Bridge, Woodley - No breach ✓
Paddock Heights, Twyford - No breach ✓
Ermin Street, Stockcross - Two breaches ✗
Mill Lane, Newbury - Five breaches ✗
Thornford Road, Greenham - No breach ✓



Officer Patrols for Re-opening Businesses

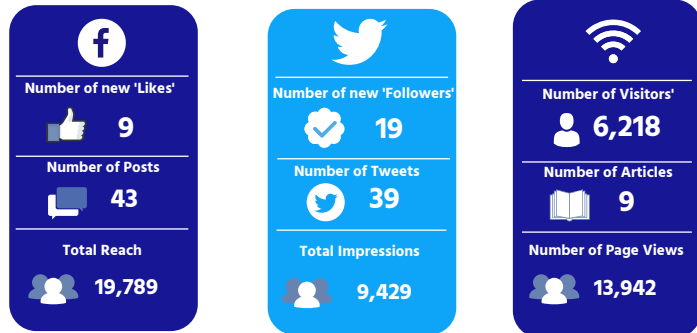
Given that most business reopening guidance has been in place now for some time, the proactive patrols targeting particular business sectors have ceased.

Officers are concentrating on following up intelligence about alleged non-compliance at businesses.

They are however also actively looking for potential non-compliance issues and taking any necessary follow up action when carrying out other work such as complaint investigations and routine food hygiene inspections.

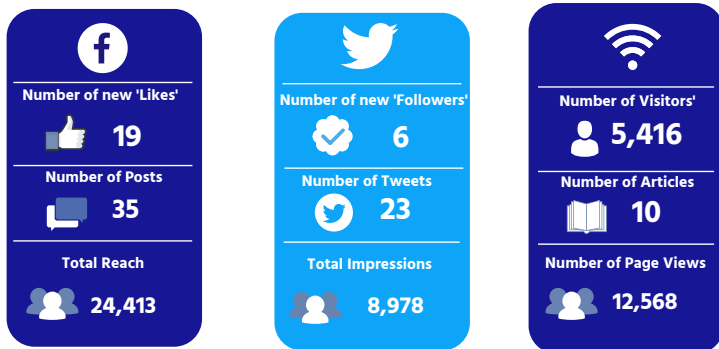
Communication

PPP Social Media Update July '20



Total combined reach for July was 43,160

PPP Social Media Update 1st August - 31st August '20



Total combined reach for August is 45,959

Website www.publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk

Month	Visitors	Page Views	Articles Published
Apr	10,442	18,864	21
May	6,970	13,679	13
June	7,638	16,344	21
July	6,218	13,942	9
Aug	5,819	13,400	10

All news articles can be viewed via the link below:

<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/news/>

Facebook @PublicProtectionPartnershipUK

	New Likes	Reach	No. Posts
Apr	96	103,470	53
May	43	65,409	49
June	21	51,461	63
July	9	19,789	43
August	69	30,546	38

Like us on Facebook [here](#)

Twitter @PublicPP_UK

	New Followers	Impressions	No. Tweets
Apr	19	25,000	59
May	6	16,200	47
June	49	13,600	59
July	19	9,429	39
August	6	9,708	23

Follow us on Twitter [here](#)

Comms Summary

Social media and website engagement continues to grow. Although July did see a drop off in social media likes/followers. This was expected as lockdown eased and people were out and about more rather than spending so much time in front of their devices. This was also replicated in the number of visitors to the website.

A new Facebook advertising campaign commenced at the end of August to grow the number of likes/followers.

See page below for snapshot of top Social Media posts for August.

Snapshot of our Social Media Posts



Courier Fraud - Reach 3,216

Public Protection Partnership
Published by Lisa Barnes [?] · 10 August · 🌐

⚠️ ⚠️ Fraud Alert in Bradfield Southend and Pangbourne this month. ⚠️ ⚠️

Please share this post and talk to others you know who may be vulnerable.

✅ In making more people aware we can stop these criminals targeting vulnerable people in our communities.

Both cases reported this month were courier fraud. Courier fraud is where a person receives a call from someone pretending to be from their bank and tells them there is a problem with their bank cards or bank account and they ne... [See more](#)



Unlicensed Puppy Breeders - Reach 2,594

Public Protection Partnership
Published by Lisa Barnes [?] · 20 August · 🌐

**** Unlicensed Puppy Breeders ****

We'd like to remind residents who are considering purchasing puppies to do their research and make clear and informed decisions about any new addition to your family.

Lucy's Law, introduced in April this year, means that anyone wanting to get a new puppy or kitten in England must now buy direct from a breeder, or consider adopting from a rescue centre instead. ... [See more](#)



Updated advice for masks for hairdressers - Reach 542

Public Protection Partnership
Published by Lisa Barnes [?] · 17 August · 🌐

Updated Government guidance for hairdressers, barbers, spas, beauty salons and tattoo and photoshoot studios on protective clothing re Coronavirus.

The updated guidance is that a visor AND a mask must be worn when providing the service.

For full details on the guidance see link below: ... [See more](#)



Loft Insulation Scam - Reach 2,338



Public Protection Partnership
@PublicPP_UK
⚠️ ⚠️ Loft Insulation Scam ⚠️ ⚠️

We've aware residents in **#Bracknell**, **#Sandhurst** & **#Crowthorne**, particularly those that are retired, are being targeted for a loft work scam.

See link for full details:
<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/news-articles/loft-insulation-scam/> ...

@BracknellForest @WestBerkshire
@WokinghamBC
[pic.twitter.com/DWHHLxU3Ja](https://twitter.com/DWHHLxU3Ja)

Unlicensed Puppy Breeders - Reach 1,434



Public Protection Partnership
@PublicPP_UK
⚠️ ⚠️ Unlicensed Puppy Breeders ⚠️ ⚠️

For those considering purchasing a puppy.

- ➡️ Do your research.
- ➡️ Make clear and informed decisions about any new addition to your family.
- ➡️ Do not purchase puppies from unlicensed breeders.

Full details below:

<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/news-articles/unlicensed-puppy-breeders/> ...
[pic.twitter.com/qp9NxCPqZl](https://twitter.com/qp9NxCPqZl)

Courier Fraud - Reach 1,336



Public Protection Partnership
@PublicPP_UK
⚠️ Courier Fraud Alert . Two cases this month in **#BradfieldSouthend** & **#Pangbourne**

If you've more information on these attempts or have had similar contact please call **@ThamesVP** on 101 to report.

@WestBerkshire

See link for full details.

<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/news-articles/fraud-alert-in-bradfield-southend-and-pangbourne/> ... [pic.twitter.com/I9CdID6vCo](https://twitter.com/I9CdID6vCo)

Who to Contact

Reporting of complaints relating to Covid-19 can be made on the website via the Enforcement Form on the front page. [Link here](#).

Trading Standards:

Concerned residents or anybody with information about coronavirus related scams are being asked to contact Trading Standards directly via: TSadvice@westberks.gov.uk

Environmental Health:

Environmental Health matters are to contact us by emailing: ehadvice@westberks.gov.uk

Licensing:

Bracknell Forest Licensing matters are to contact us by emailing: Licence.All@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk

West Berkshire Licensing matters are to contact us by emailing: Licensing@westberks.gov.uk

Wokingham Licensing matters are to contact us by emailing: Licensing@wokingham.gov.uk

Keeping in Touch With Updates



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