Dear colleagues,

In advance of the meeting tomorrow night I wondered if I might raise the following points?

Given that one of the most important elements in moving forward in successfully reducing the levels of social isolation, is likely to be the capacity to respond to the ongoing risk of infection and actual infections.

1. What efforts are the District and County Councils making to ensure that there is an effective local response? e.g. testing, tracking and containment. Capacity to cope with "surges" etc
2. What assurance and evidence can the District and County Council offer us that all settings whether businesses or health and social care provision will have access to appropriate PPE, as well as timely and effective testing?
3. Are the District and County Councils in a position to demonstrate in addition to the economic responses , what plans there are in place to address the legacy and the opportunities of the response to date, particularly in respect of the many people who have not been able to have planned operations, have access to dental treatment, or who have been exposed to conditions that have impacted on their mental health or personal safety (e.g. domestic abuse/child abuse)?
4. In respect of the opportunities as well as the threat re doing things differently, particularly in light of a possible prolonged period of economic recession or stagnation, what plans do the District and County Councils have in place to re organise services whilst maintaining or improving their quality.

I appreciate these are fairly global asks, and I am grateful for the regular information and updates provided. However I feel it would be helpful if we could promote a dialogue that focused on some of the key issues, not least because clearly the centralised and somewhat erratic approach adopted by national government can tend to distract us from trying to do the right things at a local level.

It will of course be for the chair to determine whether the above can begin to be addressed.

Kind regards Richard Burrows