

Warwickshire COVID-19 Response

September 2020

Dr Shade Agboola
Director of Public Health
Warwickshire County Council

Purpose

To outline:









- Current situation and key areas of response to COVID-19 in Warwickshire
- Reflect on learning to date
- Set out considerations for planning for the next phase of pandemic management

COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan

September 2020

Dr Shade Agboola
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COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan

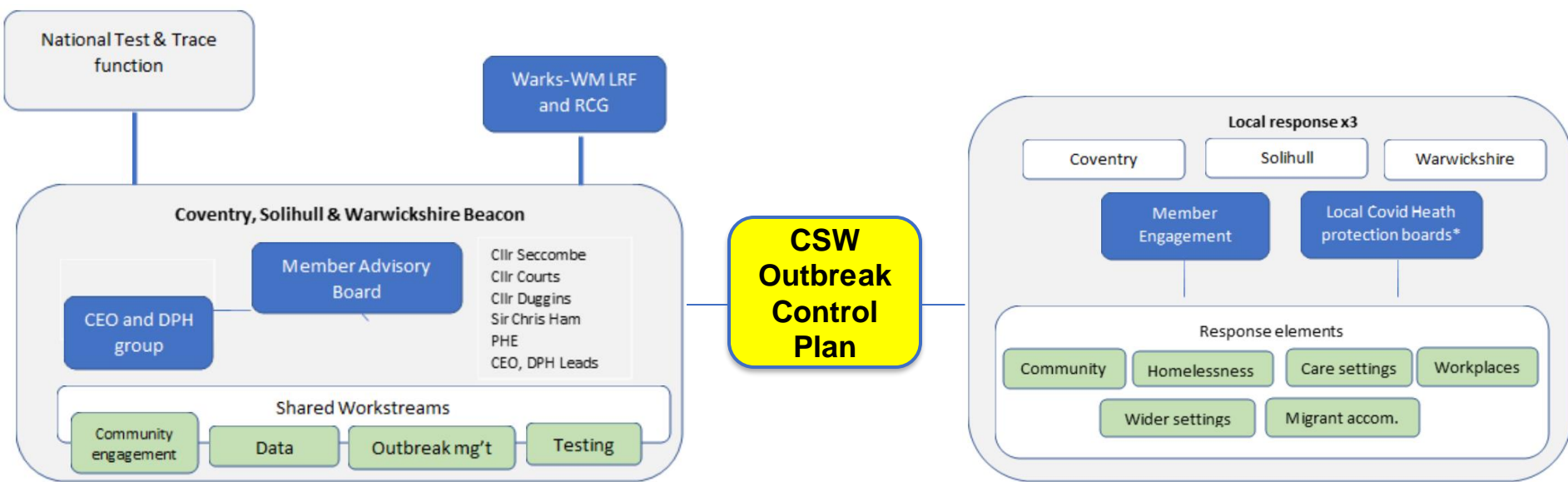
-  **Priority 1: Community engagement to build trust and participation**
-  **Priority 2: Preventing infection**
-  **Priority 3: High risk settings and communities**
-  **Priority 4: Vulnerable People**
-  **Priority 5: Testing capacity**
-  **Priority 6: Contact tracing**
-  **Priority 7: Data: dynamic surveillance and integration**
-  **Priority 8: Deployment of capabilities including enforcement**



Coventry Solihull Warwickshire (CSW) COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan



Governance



*Model re-orientated from portrait style for readability

Warwickshire Response Elements

Focus on both proactive work and in rapidly responding to exceedances and a range of outbreaks and cases in complex settings

Key Actions to date:

- **Let's Do It for Warwickshire campaign** – with localisation
- **Using intelligence** to drive localised action – e.g. exceedances, link between data and action
- **Community engagement** programme, and engagement with businesses
- **Workstreams established to support different settings** – educational, care, homelessness, workplaces/other public settings
- **Aggressive outbreak and case management** – e.g. hospital, workplace and school outbreaks/cases
- **Additional testing capacity**
 - Mobile Testing Unit rotates between sites in Nuneaton, Stratford and sites in Warwick District, with additional sites in Rugby and North Warwickshire being agreed.
 - New outbreak testing service for outbreaks in non-health and care settings now in place (Coventry and Warwickshire)
- **Building capacity in the team**

Local Outbreak Management Plan

- Overview from Director of Public Health
- Deployment to date
- Local learning so far
- Beacon arrangement

Data Dashboard

September 2020

Duncan Vernon
Consultant in Public Health
Warwickshire County Council

Data Dashboard

- [CSW Dashboard](#)

Warwickshire

2747

Lab-confirmed cases

475.30

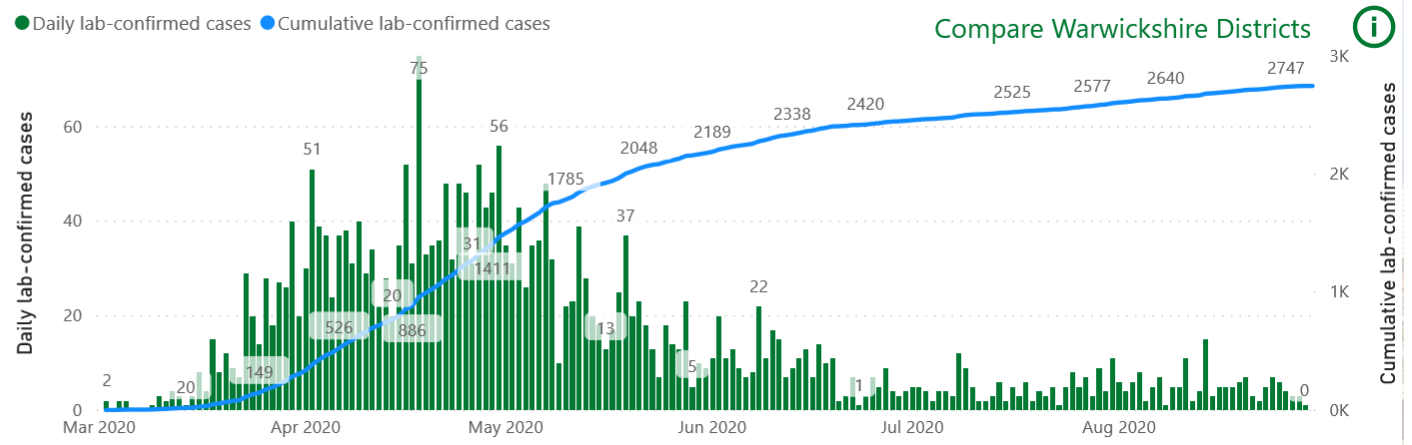
Rate per 100,000

29

5.02

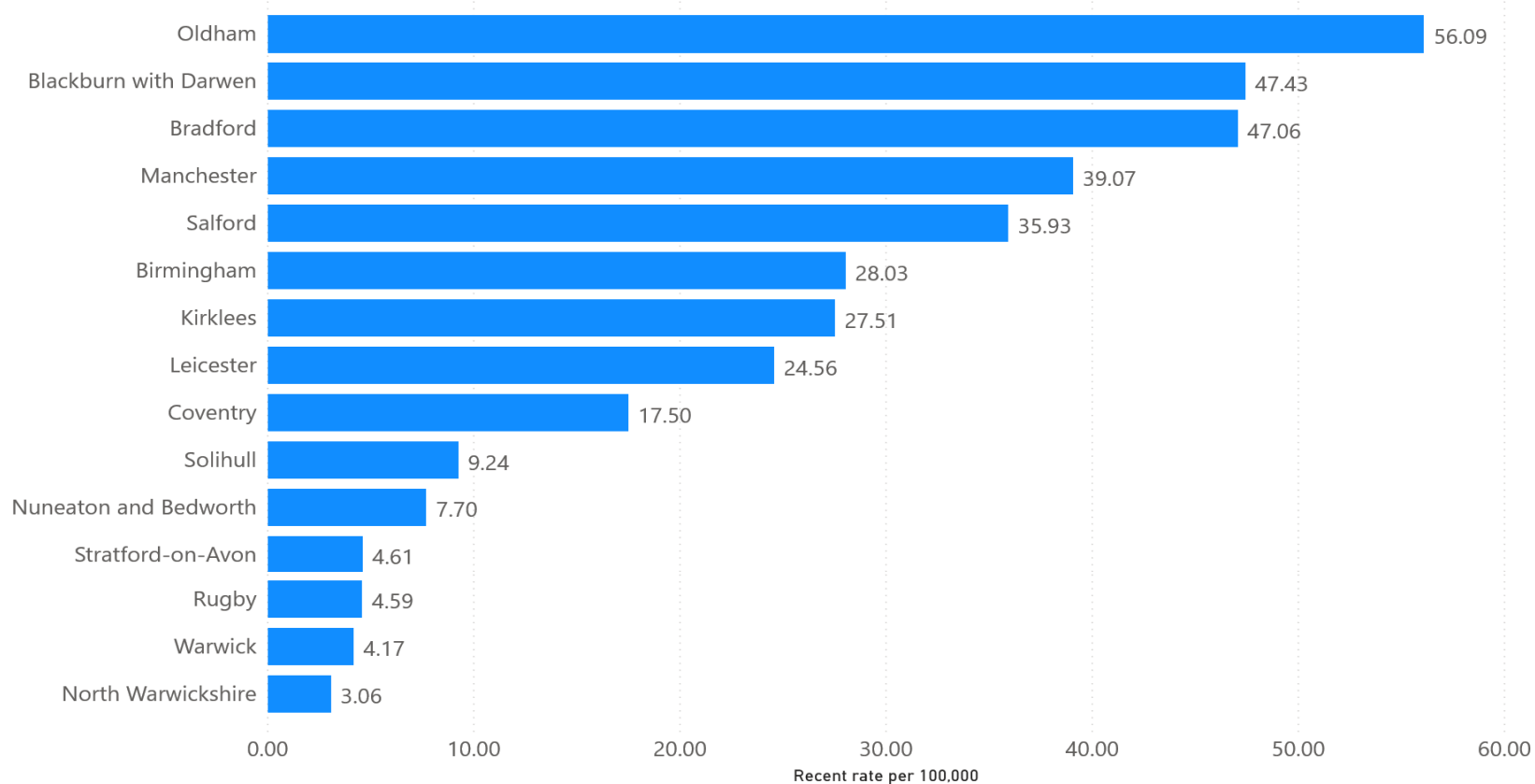
cases in the last 7 days

per 100,000



Data Dashboard

Rates per 100,000: last seven days



Note: the recent cases and rate per 100,000 is calculated by taking records in the last 10 days to account for the 3-day lag to allow for better completion of the source data, in line with NHS Digital reporting.

Contain Framework and Planning Ahead

September 2020

Dr Nadia Inglis

Consultant in Public Health

Warwickshire County Council / Coventry City Council

The Contain Framework

The contain framework describes three levels from concern to intervention, Whilst it doesn't define thresholds for the three levels it does outline some useful principles for when to act

1) Areas of concern

In these areas UTLAs will work with their partners, supported by regional PHE and NHS Test and Trace resource, to take additional actions to manage outbreaks and reduce community spread of the virus to more normal levels. Actions taken may include additional targeted testing at high risk areas or groups, for example care homes, enhanced communications around the importance of social distancing, hand hygiene and other preventative measures, and more detailed epidemiological work to understand where clusters of the virus are occurring so that appropriate action can be taken.

2) Areas of enhanced support

UTLAs deemed as areas for enhanced support will be provided with increased national support, capacity and oversight, including additional resources deployed to augment the local teams. Actions taken may include significant additional widespread testing deployed to the UTLA, local restrictions put in place to manage outbreaks and detailed engagement with high risk groups and sectors to help increase the effectiveness of testing and tracing in these areas.

3) Areas of intervention

In certain instances, decision-making will be referred to the national level.

- local leaders request an intervention from government
- multiple outbreaks require resource prioritisation by Ministers (for example where an outbreak requires more resources than local decision-makers can access through their own systems or mutual aid, including supplies of items such as PPE or additional staff)
- outbreaks raise issues of national importance (for example impact on critical infrastructure, major parts of the economy or on wider sectors such as food or energy production); or
- local capabilities and controls are exceeded (for example local community protection actions are not effective, or the scale of the outbreak calls for the use of wider or more intrusive powers)

When a wider council response is needed

Before acting, WCC's strategic group will consider intelligence such as:

- Local testing rates
- Track and trace contactable through national scheme
- Clustering in specific settings – family, parks, places of work, high footfall areas etc.
- Clustering in specific geographies – streets or postcode areas
- Clustering in specific demographic groups
- Public gatherings and events (recent or planned)
- NHS activity – e.g. hospital admissions for Covid-19
- Levels of confidence in data
- Intelligence regarding public and business behaviour within affected areas
- Levels of community engagement

Rising Tide Planning

- We have been reviewing our preparedness for each of the following themes, should we experience a rising tide scenario as we move into the next phase of pandemic management.
- Community Support
- High Risk Settings
- PPE
- Powers
- Communications and Community Engagement

Community Support

- Although currently paused, the shielding list remains and could be used again
- Re-activating shielding would be a government decision due to resource implications
- Locally we can advise Clinically Extremely Vulnerable of local situation and advise to take precautions
- WCC have the Local Welfare Scheme that supports those in crisis and are continuing the 7 day hotline phone service
- Capacity of community networks to support if demand increases not confirmed
- Furlough scheme runs until October – there may be an adverse impact on communities

High Risk Settings

- Care homes – care home outbreak control plan in place
- Education – Education setting outbreak control plan in place
- Business/Workplaces that may not be COVID-19 Secure
- Rough sleeper/homeless accommodation
- Events
- Interplay between above settings

PPE

- PPE supply remains in good condition
- WCC are holding a minimum of 4 weeks supply
- The LRF have not received an MHCLG drop since 26 June (this is an indicator of confidence in supply)
- Main supply issues are now price and volume of fraudulent / fake products on the market
- Consideration of securing supply to last at current usage rates until end of March 2021 is underway

Communications

September 2020

Jayne Surman

Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Communications
Warwickshire County Council

Communications

- We continue to manage the local, regional and national media attention
- Both WCC and the CSW beacon have communications strategies in place to Engage / Explain / Persuade residents
- Learning from Leicester has led to a change in how we work with local communities, businesses, workplaces, faith leaders, schools, care homes to ensure the messages are shared at a local level
- Working with community ambassadors – helping to support messaging and remove barriers
- Engagement – a mix of traditional and new media

Communications

- 'Let's do the right thing' campaign, covering key messages, localised and Warwickshire wide versions
- Community members and ambassadors – videos created in a variety of languages
- Targeted communications through local Facebook groups – identifying key audiences
- Regular video content from the DPH
- Partnership approach – to ensure we share best practice
- Reactive comms to manage local outbreaks

Communications – Let's do the right thing

let's do the
right thing
for Warwickshire

let's do the
right thing
for Nuneaton

let's do the
right thing
for Rugby

let's do the
right thing
for Rugby



By keeping
our distance

let's do the
right thing
for North Warwickshire



By washing
our hands

let's do the
right thing
for Stratford district

-  By wearing a face covering
-  By getting a test and self-isolating if we have symptoms
-  By washing our hands
-  By keeping our distance

Covid-19 - Control the virus



COVID-19 Community Engagement

September 2020

Emily van de Venter
Associate Director of Public Health

Charles Barlow
Localities and Partnership Manager

Community Engagement for COVID-19 Prevention Fund

- Funding to support and enhance Warwickshire's community engagement with the national test and trace programme and to circulate prevention messages in relation to the transmission of COVID-19.
- Applications up to the amount of £1000 considered.
- Work expected to be completed by 30 November 2020.
- Priority population groups identified: young people, males and older populations, low income households, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups, people with learning disabilities and/or learning difficulty, people whose first language is not English, people with long term conditions e.g. diabetes, obesity, asthma, inclusion health groups e.g. asylum seekers and refugees, Gypsy and Travellers, homeless people, sex workers.
- Initial deadline for applications 1 September 2020.

COVID-19 Support Group Webinars

- Aimed at the local support groups / mutual aid groups that were established by communities to support themselves during the first wave of the pandemic
- Presentations from Public Health and the District and Borough Councils on:
 - 1.) prevention activities and what this means for communities and local support groups,
 - 2.) overview of the Test and Trace system and provision of information to help communities beat the virus.
- One-hour webinars with a panel including Councillors, Public Health, Environmental Health and Citizens Advice. Three webinars in mid-late July, North, Rugby and South.
- 120 plus attendees over the 3 webinars, excellent feedback.

Targeted Local Support

- Exploring engagement through specific channels, e.g. food banks.
- Localised engagement activity, e.g. through WCC Localities' distribution of posters and leaflets
- Call to Active Citizenship programme with a COVID-19 and Test and Trace focus. The programme will be delivered virtually over three weeks in September/October and aims to inspire and equip course members with the knowledge and ideas to become more active in their communities.
- Engagement of specific groups through commissioned providers, e.g. the Equality and Inclusion Partnership's (EQUIP's) engagement with protected characteristic groups.

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Local Authority Powers

September 2020

Nichola Vine

Strategy and Commissioning Manager – Legal Services

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020

- Came into force on 18th July 2020 and expire at the end of 17th January 2021 and may be exercised by upper tier local authorities and unitary or district councils in single-tier areas.
- Include powers for local authorities to :
 - Restrict access to, or close, individual premises
 - Prohibit certain events (or types of event) from taking place
 - Restrict access to, or close, public outdoor places (or types of outdoor public places)
- To make a direction a local authority must to be satisfied that the following “threshold criteria” are met:
 - The proposed direction responds to a serious and imminent threat to public health in the local authority’s area; and
 - The direction is necessary to prevent, protect against, control or provide a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection in the local authority’s area of coronavirus; and
 - The prohibitions, requirements or restrictions imposed by the direction are a proportionate means of achieving that purpose

Individual Premises – Reg 4

- Power for local authorities to 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
- Does not apply to premises that form part of the essential infrastructure which provides essential public services and goods, such as government buildings, public transport etc
- Before issuing, must take reasonable steps to give advance notice to the owner, occupier and any other business operating from the premises.
- Notice of the direction should be issued in writing with the required detail

Events – Reg 5

- Empowers local authorities to prohibit specific events or types of event from taking place where the threshold criteria are satisfied (e.g. where the number of expected attendees brings high risk of transmission)
- The direction may only impose prohibitions, requirements or restrictions on the owner or occupier of relevant premises, or the organiser of the event NOT on prospective attendees of any event.
- Must take reasonable steps to give advance notice of any direction it issues to the organiser and any person who owns or occupies the premises at which an event is to take place.
- A notice of the direction should be issued in writing with the required detail

Open Public Places - Reg 6

- Power to direct the closure of or restrict access to a public outdoor place where the threshold criteria are met
- If used, people will not be allowed to be in the area without a reasonable excuse, which may include:
 - Entering the area because it is reasonably necessary for work purposes
 - Entering the area to provide freight and haulage services
 - Entering the area to carry out essential maintenance or repair works for a utility company
 - Entering the area for repair or maintenance works by highway authorities

Appeals

- Anyone directly impacted by a direction made under the Regulations (such as an owner or occupier of premises or event organiser) has the right of appeal to a local magistrate and to make representations to the Secretary of State.
- Where a direction is made in relation to premises or an event, the owner or occupier of the premises must fulfil the requirement of the direction until the appeal is resolved.
- The recipient of a direction may also make representations to the Secretary of State about the direction via NHS Test and Trace (directionnotification@dhsc.gov.uk)

Enforcement

- Where a local authority's designated officer, police officer or PCSO reasonably believes that a person is in contravention of a direction issued under the regulations, they may take such action as is necessary and proportionate to enforce the direction.
- They may issue a prohibition notice to a person who contravenes a direction, such as a person who fails to close the premises when directed to do so.
- 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.
- Where the police consider that a person is in a public outdoor place that has been closed or access restricted (without reasonable excuse) they may direct that person to leave the place immediately and/or remove the person from the place.

Offences

- A person commits an offence under the regulations if without reasonable excuse, he
 - Contravenes a direction relating to specified premises or a direction relating to holding an event
 - Is the owner, occupier or person responsible for land in a public outdoor space and fails to take reasonable steps to prevent or restrict public access to the land
 - Obstructs a person carrying out a function under the regulations, contravenes a direction or fails to comply with a reasonable instruction or a prohibition notice
 - Enters or remains in a public outdoor space in contravention of a direction.
- Proceedings can be brought by LA, CPS or anyone else designated by SoS
- Where it is reasonably believed that a person aged 18 or over has committed an offence under these regulations, an authorised person (local authority designated officer / a police officer/PCSO depending on the offence) may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).
 - If paid within 28 days beginning from the day after the date of the notice no proceedings may be taken in respect of the offence.
 - £100 for a first offence (reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days), doubling upon further offences up to a maximum of £3,200

Coronavirus Act 2020

- Section 51 and Schedule 21 - powers of public health officers, immigration officers and police constables in relation to potentially infectious people. Consultants in Public Health are “Public health officers” for the purposes of this regulation **only if specifically designated as such by the Secretary of State.**
- If the Secretary of State considers that transmission of coronavirus constitutes a serious or imminent threat to public health he can declare a “transmission control period”
- During a transmission control period, if a public health officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that a person is potentially infectious, they can:
 - Direct the person to go immediately to a place which is suitable for screening and assessment
 - Remove the person to a place suitable for screening and assessment, or
 - Request a constable to remove the person to a place suitable for screening and assessment
- Schedule 21 powers are only exercisable if it is necessary and proportionate to do so:
 - In the interest of the person
 - For the protection of other people, or
 - For the maintenance of public health

Coronavirus Act 2020

- There are further powers available where a person has been screened and assessed and
 - The screening confirmed that the person is infected with coronavirus, or
 - The screening was inconclusive, or
 - where a public health officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person is still potentially infectious
- These include
 - Quarantining the individual for up to 14 days and imposing restrictions on movement or travel (within or outside the UK), activities (including work or business activities) and contact with other persons
 - Requiring them to provide information and contact details
 - Requiring them to undergo further screening
- Where the person is required to remain at the specified place or in isolation, the requirement can be enforced:
 - By a constable or public health officer removing the person to the place
 - By a constable or public health officer keeping the person at the place
 - If the person absconds, by a constable taking the person into custody and returning them to a place specified by the public health officer

Offences

- The person on whom the direction is imposed may appeal against it to a magistrates' court.
- A person commits an offence if they
 - Fail (without reasonable excuse) to comply with any direction, instruction, requirement or restriction imposed on them
 - Fail (without reasonable excuse) to comply with a duty of individuals who have responsibility for a child
 - Abscond or attempt to abscond while being removed or kept at a specified place
 - Knowingly provide false or misleading information in response to a requirement to provide information, or
 - Obstruct a person who is exercising power under the Act