Social science and COVID-19

This list includes work funded by UKRI/ESRC, the UKRI-DHSC calls, and major relevant activity being undertaken by ESRC investments in response to COVID-19.

COVID-19 and its consequences raise enormous questions about the economy, work and unemployment, mental health, education, social isolation and much more. ESRC is the major public funder of social science in the UK and has acted quickly to ensure that the pressing work that needs to be funded can be undertaken by researchers across our disciplines.

This list represents urgent work ongoing now. Further projects will be added as they are funded. Projects added since the previous version of this list are highlighted.

We are also scoping the significant future relevant work which will be needed to navigate the recovery.

Economy

Measuring the impact of Brexit/COVID-19 on UK investment, sales and productivity (Mizen, University of Nottingham). Researching impact of COVID-19 via ongoing Decision Maker Panel on sales, employment, capital and requirements/availability of credit, working patterns, non-labour inputs, business expectations. Existing investment.

Supporting fiscal policy decisions (Johnson, Institute for Fiscal Studies). Targeted analysis using new data sources (including a COVID-19 module in a large longitudinal household survey and real-time bank data). Draws on IFS’s expertise on tax and benefit policy design and familiarity with the institutional and policy context around the UK’s labour market, taxes and benefits and the public finances. New funding.

Modelling the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the UK economy (Young, NIESR). Use of NIESR’s modelling capability to estimate short-term impact of the pandemic on the UK economy, and assess longer-term issues that will influence the economic recovery and effectiveness of policy measures. New funding.

Coronavirus economics translational hub (Griffith, Royal Economic Society/Institute for Fiscal Studies). Draws together key evidence from research on the economic impact of COVID, key policy solutions, and identifies evidence gaps. New funding.

Harnessing existing research to provide rapid responses (Chadha, NIESR). Four strands of work including: using NIESR’s econometric model to provide new analysis; understanding COVID-19’s real time economic impact; public understanding of economic and policy messages; impact of the virus in less advantaged, deprived and migrant communities. New funding.

Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) (Advani, University of Warwick). Research on policies to rebuild government finances: personal income and capital gains taxation, based on HMRC Datalab data; net wealth taxation measuring UK wealth using tax data. Existing investment.

The real-time economic effects of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom (Dhingra, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics). Examining the microeconomic impact of the pandemic and lockdown on UK businesses and its interaction with the UK’s decision to leave the European Union. New funding.
Risk sharing mechanisms to mitigate the economic consequences of pandemics: mobilising insurance expertise and capital to provide solutions for the UK (Jarzabkowski, City, University of London). Developing a novel risk-sharing mechanism to effectively share pandemic business interruption risk between UK businesses, insurers and government. New funding.

Modelling the effects of pandemic control measures and financial support on businesses, regions and households (Nesheim, Institute for Fiscal Studies and UCL). Building a sectoral-regional model of the economy to assess the impacts of specific policy interventions and estimating a model of consumer behaviour to understand the effects of lockdown on households’ spending decisions and living standards. New funding.

The fiscal response to COVID-19: ‘thinking big’ on tax policy after the crisis (Chamberlain, London School of Economics). Convening a network of world-leading tax experts to provide rapid-response evidence and recommendations to government on the case for introducing a new ‘wealth tax’ for the UK. New funding.

**Employment**

The impact of COVID-19 on economic inequality and employment progression (Adams-Prassl, University of Oxford). Five additional survey waves to gather data on the impacts of the crisis on different workers and to evaluate the effectiveness of different policies aimed to smooth the effect of containment measures on living standards. New funding.

Self-employed and COVID-19 (Machin, Centre for Economic Performance). Will monitor and quantify the effect of the pandemic on the self-employed and provide timely and policy-relevant information to support government decisions. New funding.

Where does work belong anymore? The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working in the UK (Marks, University of Stirling). This study researches home-based working and interrelated issues, including organisational support, caring responsibilities, domestic relationships and psychological wellbeing. This project is designed to help understand the management of work and productivity in a crisis, providing a benchmark for understanding the impact and responses of both individuals and businesses. New funding.

The impact of economic and social changes arising from COVID-19 on foundational sectors (including food delivery and social care) (Jones, WISERD, Cardiff University). Existing investment.

Practices and combinations of practices for health and wellbeing at work (Daniels, University of East Anglia). Collecting data on how occupational health and wellbeing services are adjusting through a longitudinal case study. Existing investment.

Rescuing a ‘sick’ labour market: using online vacancy data to track COVID-19’s economic impact (Draca, University of Warwick). Identifying the impact of COVID-19 and consequent lockdown measures on labour demand, using unique real-time data on UK online job postings, combined with text analysis and causal econometric research designs. New funding.

How is the COVID-19 accidental experiment around working from home changing the way the UK will work after lockdown? (Parry, University of Southampton). Exploring how the pandemic has influenced different sectors in the UK, the longer-term implications of working from home, and which new behaviours and working practices will remain and which should be encouraged. New funding.

The economic, social, and cultural impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on independent arts workers in the United Kingdom (Maples, University of Essex). Examining the economic, cultural and social impact of COVID-19 on independent arts workers and the organisations that serve them, with the aim of informing strategies for sector recovery. New funding.

Tracking public attitudes and preferences for post-COVID-19 labour migration policies (Broadhead, University of Oxford). To track how the public perceives low- and high-skilled migrant workers in essential and non-essential occupations over the coming year, and whether these translate into changes in policy preferences that prioritise some groups over others. New funding.

**Effects on businesses and their responses including relationships with workers**

**Measuring the effects of COVID-19 on businesses and the economy** (Mizen, University of Nottingham). The project draws on the ongoing Decision Maker Panel to gather fortnightly/monthly data on the business response to COVID-19, feeding into the Bank policy committees. The project is creating a data archive of a matched dataset using ONS surveys to provide detailed analysis of employment, investment and sales growth. It will also assess the resilience to shocks from a survey focused on management practices. New funding.

**Understanding and explaining management practices to promote higher productivity in UK businesses** (Riley, NIESR). Extending ONS-Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), Management and Expectations Survey (MES) of ~25,000 businesses with 10+ employees drawn from and linked to the 2016 Annual Business Survey sample. Existing investment.

**Gig workers: unsung heroes and a strategic role in the UK national response to the COVID-19 pandemic** (van Tongeren, University of Manchester) This project researches different risk mitigation measures and social distancing strategies to understand how delivery workers contribute to the UK’s national response by delivering to households and how they could potentially contribute to transmission. New funding.

**Young graduates’ engagement in new training** (Del Bono, Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC), University of Essex). To what extent have young graduated engaged in new training as a result of the impact of the pandemic on the jobs’ market. Existing investment.

**Real-time evaluation of the effects of COVID-19 and policy responses on consumer and small business finances** (Stewart, University of Warwick). Creation of a new real-time economic characterisation of consumer and firm behaviour using mass transaction data. New funding.

**Entrepreneurial resiliency, innovation, and change during the COVID-19 crisis** (Spigel, University of Edinburgh Business School). Production of rapid information to help entrepreneurs and policymakers understand how the impacts of the crisis change over time and how firms can build strategic resiliency in the face of an unprecedented crisis. New funding.
Waste management during the COVID-19 outbreak: Investigating a critical sector in crisis (Balayannis, University of Exeter). Investigating how this critical sector is responding to, and affected by, COVID-19 — particularly in terms of the safety of its workers. New funding.

Resilience of the UK seafood system to the COVID-19 disruption (RiseUp) (Franco, Scottish Association for Marine Science). Collecting evidence on the impacts of COVID-19 disruption across the UK seafood industry, how these are managed by businesses and how impacts are propagating through the supply network. New funding.

Quantifying and simulating the impact of social distancing policies on firm-level productivity (Fetzer, University of Warwick). Analysing the impact of social distancing policies in the workplace in the UK on firm and organisation level productivity. New funding.

Responses by SMEs

Impact of COVID-19 on staff mental health and well-being in SMEs: strategies and interventions to support workforce and boost productivity (Kumar Dey, Aston University). Research on mental health and productivity within small and medium sized enterprises’ (SMEs).

From productivity to prosperity (Driffield, University of Warwick). Analysing impact on small firms and supply chains. Existing investment.

Supporting the SME response to COVID-19: survey on technology adoption (Overman, London School of Economics). Undertaking a survey of SMEs across the UK to shed light on the extent to which SMEs have been adopting technologies or organisational practices that we might consider to be “productivity enhancing”. New funding.

Place

What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth (Overman, London School of Economics). Research on the evidence to help places rebuild their economies and identify the leading indicators that might help them understand the impact of the pandemic on different areas. Existing investment.

WISERD (Jones, Cardiff University). The role of City Regions and place based polices in supporting and renewing local economies in the aftermath of COVID-19. Existing investment.

The geography of post COVID-19 shutdown recovery risk in UK economic activity. Implications for recovery inequality and targeted stimulus (Matheson, University of Sheffield). Producing data measuring the shock, the multiplier, and the COVID-19 shutdown recovery risk for UK neighbourhoods. New funding.

Supply chains

Food system impacts of COVID-19 (Winter, University of Exeter). This research examines the extent of continuity and dislocation in the supply chain across different foods, including changes in routes to markets, the barriers to change, and the regulations, incentives, investments or interventions which might be required to optimise supply chain adjustments and ensure fairness. New funding.
COVID-19: food and nutrition security during and after the COVID-19 pandemic (Rivington, James Hutton Institute). The aim of this study is to conduct an initial rapid food and nutrition security risk assessment and explore options for changes in agricultural production, trade and distribution to protect food and nutrition security without jeopardising wider ecological and climate goals.

Medical and healthcare

Remote-by-default care in the COVID-19 pandemic: addressing the micro-, meso-, and macro-level challenges of a radical new service model (Greenhalgh, University of Oxford). Researches micro- (technical tools, clinical techniques), meso- (organisational change) and macro (national infrastructure) aspects of new remote service model in primary care to understand/disseminate best practice. New funding.

Rapid evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic response in palliative and end of life care: national delivery, workforce and symptom management (CovPall) (Higginson, King’s College London). This project rapidly evaluates the palliative care response to COVID-19 to improve care. New funding.


Necessary discussions: advance care planning for nursing homes in a COVID-19 outbreak (Brazil, Queens University Belfast). Develop and evaluate an online advance care planning (ACP) COVID-centric intervention for nursing homes during a COVID-19 outbreak to improve care at the end of life. New funding.

Supporting family carers in making decisions for older relatives with dementia (Davies, University College London) This project will produce an evidence-based decision aid for family carers and people with dementia for use in the management of COVID-19. New funding.

DETERMIND (Banerjee, University of Plymouth). Developing new empirical data on how best to support dementia sufferers and their carers and identifying predictors of better and worse outcomes. The project will generate practical guidance for services and families on how best to support people with dementia and carers. Existing investment.

DETERMIND-C19: impact of COVID-19 on people newly diagnosed with dementia and their family carers, a mixed method study nested in DETERMIND (Banerjee, University of Plymouth). Examining how a group of 266 people newly diagnosed with a range of severities of dementia in the months before the COVID-19 lockdown and their carers have been affected by COVID-19 and the predictors of better and worse outcomes. New funding.

Identifying and mitigating the individual and dyadic impact of COVID-19 and life under physical distancing on people with dementia and carers (INCLUDE) (Clare, University of Exeter). Understanding the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic and the resulting restrictions on people with dementia and their carers, and developing resources to address the negative and potentially harmful effects of this situation. New funding.

Understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on the provision of NHS health care and patient outcomes (Propper, Imperial College London). Providing a detailed description of
the extent to which non-COVID-19 NHS activity has been affected by COVID-19, who is most affected, and how patient outcomes have changed. New funding.

**Care homes and adult social care**

**Burden and impact in care homes** (Shallcross, University College London). This project aims to support the management of COVID-19 in care homes by establishing a real-time surveillance system using data from a large care home chain and a virtual stakeholder network to expedite rapid learning during the pandemic and ensure pragmatic solutions are widely disseminated. New funding.

**Understanding and improving antimicrobial prescribing in care homes: a multidisciplinary approach** (Dickson, University of Dundee). Working with care home staff on COVID-19 including an in-depth case study and a survey of care home staff and GPs who prescribe for care home residents. Existing investment.

**WISERD** (Jones, Cardiff University). Spatial inequalities in access to residential care homes in Wales and a detailed case study in the area covered by the Regional Partnership Board in West Wales. Analysis of how the legal and policy context related to third sector adult social care provision has changed in light of the pandemic, and how third sector care providers have responded. Existing investment.

**Supporting adult social care innovation** (Malley, London School of Economics). Researching adult social care, how adult social care organisations are engaging with the NHS and changes in care delivery during the pandemic. Existing investment.

**Education**

**Identifying effective remote literacy teaching methods for primary-aged children** (Jones, Bangor University). This project researches effective remote, evidence-based literacy instruction for primary-aged children, across a range of literacy abilities, in order to mitigate the negative effect of school closure. New funding.

**The effects of social distancing policies on children’s language development, sleep and executive functions** (Gonzalez-Gomez, Oxford Brookes University). This project follows up a UK-wide cohort of children aged 8 to 36 months to capture changes in key environmental variables and measure their impact on children’s vocabulary size and executive function. New funding.

**A duty of care and a duty to teach: educational priorities in response to the COVID-19 lockdown** (Moss, UCL Institute of Education). This research explores the challenges the pandemic sets primary schools, using surveys and telephone interviews to analyse how teachers weigh a duty of care (for their pupils’ well-being and welfare) and a duty to teach (given their responsibilities for curriculum delivery). New funding.

**Other public services**

**Child protection and social distancing: improving the capacity of social workers to keep children safe during the COVID-19 pandemic** (Ferguson, University of Birmingham). The project explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child protection, social workers and service users, with specific reference to the novel use of digital technologies in a period of institutionalised social distancing. New funding.
**Welfare at a (social) distance: accessing social security and employment support during the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath** (Scullion, University of Salford). This project will provide rapid evidence on how the benefits system is meeting the challenges resulting from the pandemic. New funding.

**COVID-19 and councils’ finances: understanding risks and impacts & improving policy** (Phillips, Institute for Fiscal Studies). Analysing population and financial risks facing English councils, changes in residents’ incomes and spending, and how different English councils’ spending and revenues are changing during the course of the crisis. New funding.

**Voluntary sector**

How to understand, scale and maximise the effectiveness of volunteer responses to COVID-19 (Burchell, University of Sheffield). This project will address the knowledge gap around the community resource mobilisation, infrastructural support and capacity building measures required to organise the scale and pace of volunteering needed to maximise the effectiveness of responses to COVID-19. New funding.

**Assessing financial vulnerability and risk in the UK’s charities during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis** (Mohan, University of Birmingham). Analysing the impacts on charities of the severe financial constraints they will experience due to the immediate and longer-term economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis. New funding.

**COVID-19 and VCSE organisations response** (King, Nottingham Trent University). Providing real-time data and learning on how COVID-19 is impacting the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. New funding.

**Psychological resilience**

**Supporting parents, adolescents and children during epidemics with a focus on mental health** (Waite, University of Oxford) The project tracks children and young people’s mental health throughout the COVID-19 crisis through an online longitudinal survey completed monthly throughout the pandemic by parents/carers of children aged 2-16 years and young people themselves (11-16 years). New funding.

**Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy** (CAGE) (Fetzer, University of Warwick). Research and working paper on increase in Google searches indicative of anxieties and economic fears. Existing investment.

**A longitudinal mixed-methods population study of the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: psychological and social adjustment to global threat** (Bentall, University of Sheffield). Longitudinal survey on changes in mental health and psychosocial functioning from beginning to end of the pandemic, identifying vulnerable groups needing help. New funding.

**Facilitating the public response to COVID-19 by harnessing group processes** (Drury, University of Sussex). Building upon understandings of psychological group processes to address how to develop and sustain shared identity and social solidarity during pandemics. New funding.

**Psychosocial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: identifying mental health problems and supporting wellbeing in vulnerable children and families** (van Goozen, Cardiff
University). Evaluating the social and emotional impacts of COVID-19 on primary school children and identifying how negative consequences can be mitigated. New funding.

**Monitoring socioeconomic and mental health trajectories through the COVID-19 pandemic** (Smith, NatCen Social Research). Using the nationally representative data collected monthly by the UKHLS COVID panel to assess the pandemic’s ongoing impact on individuals’ mental health and financial situation, and how this differs among subgroups of the UK population. New funding.

**Supporting people bereaved during COVID-19: a mixed methods study of bereaved people’s experiences and the bereavement services supporting them** (Harrop, Cardiff University). Investigating the grief experiences, support needs and use of bereavement support by people bereaved during the pandemic, and the adaptations, challenges and innovation involved in delivering equitable bereavement support.

**Societal resilience**

**UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence** (Gibb, University of Glasgow). Housing policies introduced during lockdown. Existing investment.

**The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on nutrition** (O’Connell, Institute for Fiscal Studies). This project uses real-time longitudinal data on a large representative sample to provide evidence on whether vulnerable people (including the elderly, those on low incomes, and those with young children) are having difficulties accessing essentials and maintaining a healthy diet. New funding.

**WISERD** (Jones, Cardiff University). Follow-up interviews with families in South Wales to consider how families have responded to COVID-19 in relation to their family relationships and attitudes. Existing investment.

**Wales Centre for Public Policy** (Martin, Cardiff University). Briefings papers on promoting a Green Recovery, supporting the groups hit hardest by recession, impact on public services. Existing investment.

**Assessing policy to address the medium-run impact of COVID-19 on income and health inequality with models informed by the history of disease outbreaks** (Angelopoulos, University of Glasgow). Assessing interventions to mitigate the medium-run implications of COVID-19 on income and health inequality. New funding.

**COVID-19: human rights implications of digital certificates for health status verification** (Beduschi, University of Exeter). Evaluating whether and how digital certificates for health status affect our enjoyment of data privacy and the protection of our human rights, and assessing whether there are effective ways to mitigate any potential risks for these rights, thus informing decision-making in this area of national interest. New funding.

**Carrying the work burden of the COVID-19 pandemic: working class women in the UK** (Warren, University of Nottingham). Analysing data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study to fill an urgent need by identifying and responding to difficulties experienced by working class women in real time. New funding.

**Meeting food vulnerability needs during COVID-19: applying a systems approach to evidence based policy and practice** (Lambie-Mumford, University of Sheffield). Applying a systems approach to enable understanding and monitoring of activities to enhance or
provide food access to vulnerable people during the COVID-19 outbreak, including both financial and direct access. New funding.

**Periods in a pandemic: how UK period poverty initiatives are managing with COVID-19 related challenges** (Williams, Birmingham City University). Providing insight into how UK-based period poverty initiatives and projects are mitigating challenges linked to COVID-19 by examining how they are continuing to meet the needs of those experiencing period poverty and identifying any gaps in provision. New funding.


**Vulnerable groups**

**Outreach to domestic abuse victims in times of quarantine** (Kirchmaier, London School of Economics). Explores how best to reach isolated domestic abuse victims using non-traditional means to provide them with a safer means of contacting the police. New funding.

**Disabled people and COVID-19 in the UK** (Shakespeare, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). Disabled people’s short- and medium-term experiences of the epidemic, including the impact of social isolation, the interruption of support on wellbeing, the barriers and facilitators of this process and lessons that can be learned for policy and practice. New funding.

**Transitions to more harmful forms of gambling during COVID-19 pandemic: behaviours and targeted marketing in young people and bettors on sport** (Hunt, University of Stirling). Providing regulators, policy makers and treatment providers with high quality evidence on the changing patterns and context of gambling behaviours during COVID-19 and its aftermath. New funding.

**COVID-19: families, children aged 0-4 and pregnant women: vulnerabilities, resources and recovery in Tower Hamlets** (Cameron, University College London). Examining changing family support services and emergent community resources such as mutual aid and peer networks. New funding.

**Homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic: homeless migrants in a global crisis** (Stewart, University of Portsmouth). Examining the biographical narratives of St Mungo’s clients in London in relation to their experiences of homelessness during the coronavirus crisis. New funding.


**Impacts on social connections and wellbeing of COVID-19 policies in the older population: CFAS cohort over 75s (OPPO)** (Brayne, University of Cambridge).
Undertaking a new wave of interviews that will enable direct assessment of the mental health impact of social distancing measures, and of changes to communications and social networks, in older people in three diverse geographies of England including rural areas and those with high deprivation. New funding.

**COVID-19 and rough sleepers: a randomised controlled trial to evaluate models of housing and support to reduce infection and homelessness** (Mackie, Cardiff University). Conducting the first ever randomised controlled trial in the UK to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of permanent housing on the risk of COVID-19 infection and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness. New funding.

**Exploring BAME differences**

**Consumer Data Research Centre** (Paul Longley, University College London). Using the CDRC Modelled Ethnicity Proportions 1997-2016 (LSOA Geography) and Ethnicity Estimator software to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on different groups in society, particularly those in BAME categories. Existing investment.

**Identifying and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities experienced by people from BAME backgrounds working in health and social care** (Hatch, King’s College London). Identifying ethnic inequalities in mental health and occupational outcomes amongst NHS staff in the context of COVID-19. New funding.

**Security, crime and public order**

**Monitoring the effects of the pandemic on illicit online trade** (Baronchelli, City University of London). This project will build an infrastructure to monitor dark web trading in COVID-19-related goods and services. New funding.

**Understanding inequalities project** (McVie, University of Edinburgh). Working with the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland on the policing of the coronavirus pandemic, collecting data on the use of the police powers, and data from public opinion surveys, as part of a scrutiny review of Police Scotland’s use of the coronavirus powers during the lockdown period, and the transition into the next phase of regulation. Existing investment.

**Developing fake news immunity** (Musi, University of Liverpool). This project uses Natural Language Processing techniques to identify topics and understand the structure of the fake news ecosystem. These principles will be operationalised in a digital platform with a chatbot for training citizens to spot misinformation. New funding.

**Human rights, big data and technology project** (McGregor, University of Essex). Researching the human rights implications of the use of new and emerging technologies during the pandemic. Existing investment.

**Responding to the COVID-19 domestic abuse crisis: developing a rapid police evidence base** (Hohl, City, University of London). Providing a near real-time evidence base to inform the police approach to the apparent surge in domestic violence and abuse (DA) triggered by the Covid-19 lockdown in the UK. New funding.

**Domestic abuse: responding to the shadow pandemic** (Walklate, University of Liverpool). Evaluating the efficacy of policy and practice innovations by both the police and courts to deal with the immediate crisis and explore their viability for future practice in face of
ongoing service demands and the fiscal impact of such as the longer-term consequences of the global pandemic take root. New funding.

**Reducing the unanticipated crime harms of COVID-19 policies** (Farrell, University of Leeds). Drawing on crime science, this research will will anticipate crime effects of prolonged, graduated or cyclical exit strategies. New funding.

**COVID-19 and child criminal exploitation: closing urgent knowledge and data gaps on the implications of pandemic for county lines** (Brewster, University of Nottingham). Assessing changes and continuities in perpetrator behaviour resulting from social distancing, showing whether criminal business models are likely to change due to a changing risk and/or profitability profile. New funding.

**Pandemic policing: public attitudes towards compliance and organisational resilience** (Charman, University of Portsmouth). Analysing the experiences of police officers and police leaders in exceptional circumstances and exploring the physical and psychological challenges of pandemic policing. New funding.

**Environment**

**The impact of COVID-19 restrictions on recreation and use of green space in Wales** (Jones, Bangor University). Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the use of local green space by different social groups. New funding.

**COVID-19: the local as a site of food security resilience in the times of pandemic: opportunities, challenges and ways forward** (Krzywoszynska, University of Sheffield). Working with key businesses and organisations in the local food sector, this project will use surveys, interviews, citizen science, and backcasting to provide timely evidence on sector robustness, adaptability, and its route to transformation in the post-pandemic context. New funding.

**Consumer Data Research Centre** (Singleton, University of Liverpool). Review of pandemic impact on mobility patterns and how this has impacted air pollution. Existing investment.

**Nature engagement and wellbeing pre, during and post COVID-19: Supporting the UK (green) recovery** (Gatersleben, University of Surrey). Working with Natural England to examine the impact of Covid-19 on nature engagement and wellbeing in the UK and support Government strategies aimed at ameliorating impacts and managing recovery. New funding.

**Behavioural science and behaviour change**

**Network for integrated behavioural science** (Starmer, University of Nottingham). Multiple projects including work on the impact (and possible unintended consequence of) messages to promote conformity with social distance recommendation and developing an experimental design to measure people’s perceptions of when people would consider using NHS services. Existing investment.

**Rapid co-design, implementation and evaluation of a digital behaviour change intervention to improve hand hygiene and limit spread of the COVID-19 outbreak** (Yardley, University of Southampton) This project evaluates how an existing digital public health intervention can be rapidly adapted and optimised for the changing needs of an infection outbreak. New funding.
Virus watch: understanding community incidence, symptom profiles, and transmission of COVID-19 in relation to population movement and behaviour (Andrew Hayward, University College London). This large project involves establishing two national household cohorts to measure symptoms and behaviour. This will be extended through the optional use of an app allowing individuals’ mobile phones to be used as GPS trackers to enable secure transfer and analysis of detailed movement patterns. New funding.

A mixed-methods evaluation of advice on isolation and health-seeking to contain transmission (Oliver, Public Health England). A rapid evaluation of supported isolation (quarantine) to assess the extent to which people adhere to advice and the impact isolation has on their mental health and wellbeing. New funding.

Mental health research network (Fancourt, University College London). The COVID-19 Social Study is a panel study of the psychological and social experiences of adults in the UK during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus run by UCL. Over 75,000 people are currently participating in the study, completing weekly online surveys about their experiences and behaviours. www.MARCHNetwork.org/research. Existing investment.

Understanding the dynamics and drivers of the COVID-19 epidemic using real-time outbreak analytics (Edmunds, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). This project monitors contact and precautionary behaviours in a representative cohort and gathers data on risk awareness and perceived efficacy of interventions to refine transmission models, improve forecasting, and assess the effectiveness of social distancing measures. New funding.

Healthcare workers: an in-depth virological analysis and behavioural study during the outbreak (Nastouli, University College London). This project researches the risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 in health care workers using longitudinal sampling methods, tracking of movement and studies of behaviours and attitudes. New funding.

COVID-19: cancer attitudes and behaviour study (Brain, Cardiff University). Generating rapid evidence based on public views/response, informing public health interventions to encourage timely symptom presentation, screening engagement and cancer-related health behaviours in the wake of the pandemic. New funding.

COVID-19: developing evidence-based messages to encourage preventive health behaviours (Dempster, Queen’s University Belfast). Conducting a systematic review of the determinants of behaviours (such as handwashing and social distancing) that aim to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses. New funding.

Social learning about COVID-19 vulnerability and social distancing in high density populations: the case of UK urban dwelling Bangladeshis (Tang, King’s College London). Examining the role of social learning in how messages are accessed and interpreted and whether and how the health interactions are mediated by friends, family members and acquaintances. New funding.

Decision making

nCoV: understanding the dynamics of policy development and healthcare worker behaviour in the UK during the COVID-19 public health emergency (Sheard, University of Liverpool). Researching how UK policymakers arrive at decisions during the outbreak, and their impact on UK healthcare workers. New funding.
Enhancing the use of ResilienceDirect in the COVID-19 response: a comparative analysis of Local Resilience Forums (Sage, Loughborough University). Producing the first independent evidence base for Local Resilience Forum practitioners, national policymakers and scholars to understand how ResilienceDirect is being used to facilitate LRF collaboration and rapidly circulating best practices through RD to enhance the UK’s planning and response to COVID-19.

Data and Data Collection

Understanding Society COVID-19 study (Benzeval, University of Essex). New monthly survey wave on the established Understanding Society longitudinal study, exploring the impact of the pandemic on the UK population, covering employment, income, health, family, education and civic engagement. Existing investment.

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing COVID-19 sub-study (Steptoe, University College London). Two new waves of this established longitudinal study investigating the current and changing impacts of COVID-19 on older men and women. New funding.

Centre for Longitudinal Studies (Goodman, University College London). A nationwide survey of the participants of five national longitudinal cohort studies, to examine the impact of the pandemic, help understand how people at different life stages are affected, and how prior life experiences shape resilience or vulnerability. Existing investment.

WISERD Education Multi Cohort Study (Jones, University of Cardiff). New data collection from existing cohort of young people from across secondary schools in Wales. Existing investment.

COVID-19 app store and data flow ecologies (Dieter, University of Warwick). Empirical analysis of emerging ecologies of COVID-19 apps and their governance through app stores, and of the data flows of prevalent apps within this domain. New funding.

ADR Wales (Ford, Swansea University and Jones, Welsh Government). The team has come together to leverage existing and new datasets and apply their expertise to provide evidence to reduce the impact of the epidemic on the Welsh population using the SAIL Databank, an ADR Wales partner. Existing investment.

ADR Scotland (Dibben, University of Edinburgh and Halliday, Scottish Government). Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician and ADR Scotland Co-Director, sits on the Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group. This Group has set up a Data Task Force, which is chaired by Roger and includes in its membership ADR Scotland’s other director, Professor Chris Dibben, as well as other members of the partnership. The purpose of the taskforce is to enable evidence-based policy and operational decisions by organisations in Scotland responding to the current Covid-19 situation. Existing investment.

ADR Northern Ireland (O’Leary, Queen’s University Belfast and Carey, NISRA). Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) researchers have been assisting in the production and continuous development of official weekly deaths statistics, recently supplemented with specific analysis of Covid-19 related deaths. They are investigating how data linkage opportunities may broaden the existing evidence base to support decision making related to Covid-19, as well as the impact Covid-19 is having on society. Existing investment.

ADR UK investment into ONS (Stokes, ONS). Three new Covid-19 datasets have been made available in the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS). In addition, ONS is jointly
leading the government’s large-scale virus infection and antibody test study, for which the SRS, which receives funding from ADR UK, is hosting the data and analysis. Existing investment.

**Will COVID-19 change what the public expect of government?** (Curtice, NatCen Social Research). New waves of NatCen’s mixed mode random probability panel to assess how attitudes have changed at both the aggregate and the individual level. New funding.

**Learning from international experience**

**Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE)** (Fetzer, University of Warwick). An international team from 12 institutions, including Harvard, Cambridge, IESE, etc, is collecting survey data on how citizens prepare for and cope with the pandemic. To date, more than 100,000 participants in 150 countries have taken part. Existing investment.

**Life with corona** (Justino, Institute of Development Studies). IDS, ISDC and UNU-WIDER collecting real time data on the coronavirus and its social and economic impacts, to build a global knowledge base about how people are dealing with the epidemic (including on focus on trust, which was key in the response to the Ebola). Existing investment.

**Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP)** (Elkomy, University of Surrey). Researching health, economic and social aspects including risk perception and how it adversely affects economic activity and empirically testing effects of different population characteristics and health factors on mortality rate. Existing investment.

**Trust and trustworthiness in national and global governance** (Jennings, University of Southampton). An online national survey in the UK, US and Italy which includes questions on COVID and political trust. Focus groups exploring political trust in towns and cities relating to COVID. Existing investment.

**Understanding Chinese government containment measures and their societal impacts** (Duckett, University of Glasgow). This project compiles a database of policy documents (from government websites) that set out containment measures. It researches how these measures have evolved, use text and computational analysis of newspapers and social media, and conduct local fieldwork on societal impacts in urban/rural areas. New funding.

**Strengthening & accelerating the global research response to COVID-19 by sharing methods and knowledge between countries, networks and organisations** (Lang, University of Oxford). This project helps diffuse methods and knowledge across international networks, and facilitates knowledge sharing and the provision of policy relevant information in nations and places where existing research capacity is low. New funding.

**Optimising antibiotic use along surgical pathways: addressing antimicrobial resistance and improving clinical outcomes** (Holmes, Imperial College London). Researching COVID-19 at country level to capture data from high-middle and low-income countries on political factors, economic influences, sociological trends, technological innovations, ecological factors, legislative requirements and industry (PESTELI framework). Existing investment.

**COVID-19 international comparative research and rapid knowledge exchange hub on diagnostic testing systems** (Hopkins, University of Sussex). Identifying the key elements of testing systems that have contributed to effective performance, including measures taken that have facilitated preparedness and resilience before the crisis, as well as those rapid innovations that have helped countries to deal with a fast-evolving pandemic. New funding.
Gendering the UK’s social policy response to the COVID-19 crisis (Cook, King’s College London). Gather information on global social policy responses and assessing the extent to which they are gender sensitive. New funding.

Communication

Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (Semino, Lancaster University). Researching international communication and use of metaphors around COVID-19. Existing investment.

British Election Study (Fieldhouse, University of Manchester). Wave 20 of the BES internet panel will ask questions on COVID-19 and its impact on political opinion including exposure (individual and family), evaluations/handling and impact on issue position and salience. Existing investment.

COVID-19: what are the drivers of the Islamophobic infodemic communications on social media (Awan, Birmingham City University). Examining the interaction between miscommunications and conspiracy theories on social media. New funding.

Identity, inequality, and the media in Brexit-COVID-19-Britain (Tyler, University of Exeter). Examining the resonances and contrasts in the ways in which the inequalities of COVID-19 and Brexit have been framed by the media and everyday experiences. New funding.

COVID-19 (mis)information exposure and messaging effects in the United Kingdom (Reifler, University of Exeter). Examining COVID-19 information and beliefs, including whether inaccurate information and conspiracy thinking can be effectively countered by informational interventions. New funding.