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Important regarding Business Continuity - please pass to your Business Manager

**A view from Steve Debruin - One West  
Business Continuity Expert.**

***Getting back to 'Business as Usual'  
amidst uncertainty.***



Some of you will know me – **Steve Debruin**. For those who don't, as well as being on **One West's** management team I'm an expert in & practitioner of **Business Continuity**.

If you want to you can check **One West** out at [www.onewest.co.uk](http://www.onewest.co.uk) There is lots to read & we provide plenty of **free resources** relating to the range of professional services we offer.

Today though I'm messaging you with my thoughts on the **Business Continuity** challenges you face at this time and, how we can **help**. To talk more about it I'm contactable via: [Steve\\_Debruin@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Steve_Debruin@bathnes.gov.uk)

First though let me give some views on how things stand at the moment and ask that you read on.

Pre COVID-19 I helped many clients to put **plans** in place and it's clear that where this was done it has paid off. Of course some of those that didn't have had the reverse experience.

Of course the challenges **aren't** going away. Some are telling us that they feel recovery to 'business as usual' is as **hard** or even **harder** than being in lockdown.

The bottom line is there is a responsibility and often a **statutory** requirement for organisations like yours to have a **Business Continuity Plan** in place. However I recognise often from those making the rules there is little or no explanation as to what Business Continuity is, how it needs to be managed and in particular how it can help in **recovery**.

My experience is that a simple and quick return to normal after such a period of 'different' working practises can cause as much of a problem as the incident itself. That is where the **presence** or **absence** of a

Business Continuity plan (in line with your risk register and risk assessments) can really **show itself**.

The information everyone is getting at the moment is something of a **patchwork**. Everyone is looking for clarity & trying to interpret what is required. It's something I am monitoring closely & an area in which we can **help**.

Certainly we know there will be a significant period of **social distancing** which can be very **disruptive** not least in the use of space which includes staff rooms, canteens, toilets, lifts etc. There are simple ways of managing movement we have seen in supermarkets **but** does this work in your environment?

We all also need to plan ahead for availability of sanitisers and **other equipment** that can assist and, we need to look at how we can support those who are returning to work and learning after being **directly affected** by COVID-19.

It also seems to me in thinking about this and as part of planning we need to consider the emotional toll of COVID-19 on all and consider how that might affect **behaviour, learning and performance**.

So now we must try and plan for our way out of this and in reality much of the detail relies on individual **detailed planning** and an **agile** response to the **flux** in the requirements placed upon us. Its clear the pressure caused by this is going to **remain** for a long time yet.

Crucially looking beyond the pandemic - many lessons are being learned but they are easily **forgotten**.

My suggestion is - lets all take the **opportunity** to document responses in a **Business Continuity Plan** and hold on to what we now know should it as unfortunately is potentially the case be needed **again**.

You may want One West to **help** you. If so drop me a line and we can set up a conference call. I will see if I can assist with your questions at no charge of course. [Steve\\_debruin@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Steve_debruin@bathnes.gov.uk)

**Take care, stay safe and think about if we can help you move forward. I would be very glad to talk.**

**Regards**

**Steve**



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