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**Important regarding Business Continuity - please pass  
to your Business Manager**

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



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

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

Our background is in Local Authority and schools but increasingly we are helping **charities** and **care organisations** with their needs.

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 **still hard** even though restrictions are reducing.

The bottom line is there is a **need** for organisations like yours to have a **Business Continuity Plan** in place. However I recognise often 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** in the '**new normal**'.

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My experience is that achieving stability after a period of 'different' working practises can cause as much of a problem as the incident itself. This is showing itself still in many staff having to self isolate at short notice.

It might be commendable but it isn't much help when trying to deliver services and 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. **Uncertainty remains** going into the Autumn period. It's something I am monitoring closely & an area in which we can **help**.

Certainly we know there is a risk there may at some point be a return to a significant period of **social distancing** which we have all experienced can be very **disruptive**.

It also seems to me in thinking about this and as part of planning we still 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 **future living with Covid**. 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 be a possibility 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

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as unfortunately is potentially the case be needed **again**.

You may want One West to **help** you in deciding how to move forward. 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 and think about if we can help you move forward. I would be very glad to talk.**

**Regards**

**Steve**



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