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17 July 2020

## StreetDoctors statement on our work in response to COVID-19

### **Our emergency first aid sessions delivered to young people at risk of youth violence**

As a result of the current public health crisis we took the very unfortunate decision to temporarily suspend face to face delivery of our emergency first aid sessions with young people. This is to protect the health of the young people we work with, our network of young healthcare volunteers as well as our delivery partners and members of the wider StreetDoctors community. All sessions which had been booked and were scheduled for delivery have been postponed until current social restrictions are lifted, which we hope will occur during the summer. As soon as is safe to do so we will then honour our commitment to delivering the backlog of these sessions as well as contracting to deliver many more throughout the UK going forward.

### **New blended resources for young people via our delivery partners**

We are now working hard on our response to the crisis so we can continue to be both useful and relevant at this very challenging time. We are therefore launching a blended delivery offer consisting of socially distanced face to face teaching where appropriate, and a suite of online resources for delivery partners. We are in communication with our network of partners to maintain awareness of StreetDoctors and are

consulting with them to understand the issues that may be arising for young people as a result of COVID -19. We are determined to supportively respond to these issues so that StreetDoctors continues to provide the best possible support to young people delivered in a trauma informed way. [Click here to book a StreetDoctors session and find out more about our digital delivery offer.](#)

### **Support for our healthcare volunteers**

We are also providing a range of virtual support-systems so we can support our young healthcare volunteers at this very difficult time. These include using our social media channels to direct volunteers to sources of advice and support, as well as offering online consultations with an experienced trauma psychotherapist. Our staff team are also checking in with our volunteers regularly to explore issues and encourage self-care at this challenging time.

### **Strengthening StreetDoctors work**

In addition, we will use the time provided by the hiatus in face-to-face delivery to strengthen and evolve StreetDoctors. Our staff team will therefore also be working hard to ensure that we use this time to improve all operations, so that we can continue working impactfully with at-risk young people, and our movement of over 500 committed healthcare volunteers.