

#### **CASE STUDY**

## Locala Community Partnership

Leading Community Partnership



# Healthcare staff working in the community

Leading Community Interest Company, Locala, has selected Protect from Totalmobile to support staff who work alone or out of direct contact with line managers. The group's 1,300 staff provide community-based health services across Kirklees, Calderdale and Bradford.

Locala's mandate is to provide NHS community-based services that bridge health provision between hospitals and

GP surgeries. Approximately half of Locala's team are lone workers, i.e. staff working alone or with a colleague, but out of direct contact with supervisors or line managers.



### Healthcare in the community

Locala's healthcare provision includes a wide range of services, including health visiting, speech and language therapy, substance misuse, sexual health, community nursing and podiatry. These services are delivered at health centres,



GP surgeries, schools, in the community and service users' own homes by Locala staff. Staff members often work directly with service users who have complex needs, can be vulnerable, or are in challenging environments.

#### Sexual Health Outreach services

One complex area of Locala's work is the provision of sexual health outreach. For example, staff provide support around sexual health and promote safer sex awareness in schools, colleges and community venues. The team also work directly with higher risk groups in the community. Sex workers are supported



on-site in locations such as massage parlours, brothels and on the streets. In these areas, drug and alcohol use may exacerbate already challenging circumstances. In such scenarios, Locala's staff always work with at least one other colleague, but there are instances where staff are nevertheless out of touch with their supervisors or colleagues at their base locations.

#### Children's services

Less obviously challenging perhaps, staff can still face risks when providing children's services in schools. Many schools offer facilities

that can be accessed by students discreetly, perhaps in a less used area of the school campus. In these areas, lone workers can be dealing with complex needs and can face confrontational behaviour.

#### Health Visitors and Community Nurses

Health Visitors and Community Nurses often work alone, apart from an initial risk assessment at the service users' home. All staff have attended mandatory training for lone worker safety,

and this enables them to assess risks and mitigate against them. Protect is one of the tools at their disposal, but the aim is to reduce risk where feasible before a situation escalates. The staff know not to take additional risks because of their safety device.



#### Choices for workers

Locala has deployed SOS Fob for most of its lone workers. "Many of our staff will be carrying or using specialist equipment. So, they particularly value being able to wear the SOS Fob using an armband or moulded badge; each suit different workers. Wearing SOS Fob means it doesn't interfere with their clothing or any specialist equipment, it's discreet, lightweight, and most

importantly, always to hand in a crisis" Suzanne Flintoff, Locala Community Partnerships.

SOS Fob is a BS8484:2016 Gold Certified specialist lone working device. It deploys





two key technologies. Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate your lone worker in an emergency. And Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), which allows workers to speak directly to operatives at the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC).

#### SOS Fob Key Features

- Red Alert High-quality two-way audio voice call to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC). Activation is discreet via the prominent central SOS button.
  The ARC can access GPS location, personal escalation protocols and can direct emergency service to the worker's location.
- Yellow Alert Voice memo allows lone workers to leave a recorded message providing task- or location-specific information; this can save valuable time if the worker than initiates a Red Alert.
- Worker Down Fall and impact detection alert. Alert sensitivity can be customised up or down on individual devices or even deactivated entirely to provide the best fit for every lone worker.
- GPS location Reported to the system every ten minutes, and whenever a Red, Yellow or Worker Down Alert is raised. The GPS location is captured within Protect in real-time and used by the ARC operator to direct emergency services to the worker's position in an emergency.

#### Buddy feature gives peace of mind

Staff across departments were drawn to the 'buddy' features of Protect Red Alert. Users can press the SOS button and will be immediately connected to the ARC, where an operative will stay on the call with the worker, should they feel at risk. For example, if they're working late at night and are uncomfortable in a poorly lit car park, ARC staff can stay alert as they walk to their vehicle. The ARC staff use the initial seconds of the call for active listening if a vulnerable worker can't speak freely. All calls are recorded, and these recordings are admissible as evidence in a court of law.

#### Occasional lone workers

Some of Locala's staff only work alone occasionally and may be called out unexpectedly so they can't always plan to have a fully charged specialist device with them. For these staff the challenge was choosing a solution that would always be to hand, fully charged and never forgotten. Enter the Protect App for smartphones. Protect's advanced smartphone app includes all our features: Red Alert, Yellow Alert, Safe Check, Worker Down, Group Alert and Safe Beacon. Designed to work seamlessly across all handsets, the app is available for Android, Apple and Windows smartphones (as well as BlackBerry handsets, standard mobiles and PCs).





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Totalmobile is market leader in field service and mobile workforce management technology, helping organisations deliver more service, of the highest quality and at reduced cost.

Our SaaS based software provides a range of innovative products that deliver a step change in field service performance, mobile worker empowerment and management control.

This unlocks transformative cost savings, capacity gains, productivity improvements and empowers allows mobile workers to focus on consistently delivering the best service.

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