



SUBJECT: You're Never Alone with a Smartphone

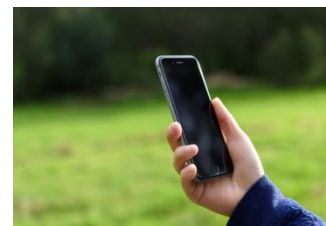
RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)

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Findings shared by over 120 health and safety professionals across the UK has highlighted the rising importance of technology to help prevent, manage and respond to workplace risks, and adapt to changing working practices.

A [recent report](#) documents how Covid-19 has created a rise in employee safety requirements and lone working for more than three quarters (77%) of businesses, which has accelerated technology adoption, and made personal safety and mental wellbeing a primary concern. The exceptional circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic have transformed the world of work, vastly increasing the numbers of people working remotely or alone.



As more companies announce plans to roll out permanent flexible and hybrid working plans, businesses keen to maintain high health and safety standards are turning to smarter, connected technology to address the challenge of protecting a dispersed workforce, from lone worker devices or apps to wearable tech. Almost three quarters (71%) plan on investing in lone worker technology within the next 1-3 years and 51% expect to increase use of Smart PPE within the next three years.

Integration with systems and processes is seen as critical to ensure a successful technology roll out: many companies already treat lone worker devices as personal protective equipment (PPE) with 78% of respondents wishing to see this categorisation adopted across their industry. Nearly half of organisations surveyed (47%) equip their lone workers with some form of personal safety device, and around a quarter (24%) use smartphone/tablet apps with SOS alarms. Smarter devices are also being relied upon to fulfil multiple purposes, from boosting connectivity across an increasingly remote workforce to providing incident response and support to vulnerable workers during (and outside of) working hours. Technology is also gathering trend data, helping to anticipate risks and reduce incidents, marking a clear evolution from a reactive tool used post-incident to one that can also help to prevent incidents.

Lincolnshire County Council have already embraced various technologies to support staff safety, such as the availability of the [Orbis Lone worker device](#), the new on-line [EvoSafe accident and incident reporting](#) system, the [SHINE DSE Homeworker assessment](#), and the widespread use of MS Teams to enable staff teams and managers to stay connected during prolonged periods of working from home.

For further information, advice and guidance, please see the [LCC Health and safety manual](#).

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact the Corporate Health & Safety Team :- CorporateHealthandSafety@lincolnshire.gov.uk.