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# Professional and personal reflections from the Covid 19 pandemic and lessons for Health and Social Care Management

The IHSCM supports health and social care managers by helping them to meet the challenges of the unusual as well as everyday operations through understanding, developing, sharing and celebrating good practice for the benefit of people that need advocacy or assistance.

In a myriad of ways this makes the discipline complicated by definition. The IHSCM's aim was heightened during the CoViD 19 crisis between 2020 and 2022, made worse in the UK by poor strategic leadership, currently under investigation through the Hallett Inquiry.

A conversation with Richard Shircore towards the end of 2022 opining the lack of lessons learnt during the course of the pandemic. This led to the idea of the 'CoViD Reader'.

Hallett's work <sup>[1]</sup> remains welcome. But it was assessed to be too focused on strategic issues and not enough on professionalism, community contexts, risk management and for those public services, such as the police for whom knowledge of pandemics is minimal.

The first part of the Hallet Report was published in August 2024 and focuses on strategic resilience and preparedness but does not consider the excellent response and recovery work that individuals and teams delivered within a health and care system who's resilience has been eroded concomitant with fighting health inequalities in communities that are significantly more vulnerable to these dangers, as articulated by Dame Jennifer Dixon CE of the Health Foundation in response to the first part of the Hallet report.

This chimes with our own experiences during the crisis, witnessing good public health practices and the recommendations of the Ottawa Charter and its manifestations since 1987 being observed and implemented on a day-to-day basis despite the chaos being created at government level.

This was a major driver that prompted the 'CoViD Reader' alongside the time that it would take for Hallett and her team to complete their work.



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**Creating the ‘Reader’ would give individual practitioners a voice to demonstrate how they and their teams responded to the initial disaster and what they learnt from the experience.**

Richard posted a callout on social media for expressions of interest in mid-2023 which resulted in an eclectic mix of public health practitioners and academics from across a wide professional base responding.

Individuals worked on their own papers and were given freedom to write in whatever style they wished but emphasising that ‘reflection on’ their own practise and experience was the key criterion.

**This led to a rich data set that generated profound themes:** collaborative mitigation and preparation for disasters to create resilience, accurate messaging to reduce population confusion and unnecessary fear, intelligent management of residual risk all bound by ethical practice.

***This ‘Reader’ is intended to encourage the reader in “reflective practice”.  
 Focusing on the moral and ethical challenges that CoVid generated.***

A strong sense of disconnect between government and public resonates throughout the ‘Reader’ as does the professionalism and purpose demonstrated by the front line staff.

**Download your FREE e-copy of the CoViD Reader, here:**  
**[The-Covid-Reader-Reflections.pdf](#)**

