

Lanarkshire NHS Board

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**NHS Board Meeting
22 February 2006**

NHS LANARKSHIRE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PLAN

1. Enclosed, for Members' information, is a copy of the Influenza Pandemic Plan, recently lodged with the Scottish Executive Health Department. A response from the Department to the Plan is awaited.
2. The Plan represents the culmination of substantial work by NHS Lanarkshire and North and South Lanarkshire Councils, and should be viewed within the overall context of the Major Emergency/Incident Plans and Procedures that are well established, tried and tested.
3. The onset of an Influenza Pandemic would present many challenges for public services in Lanarkshire in ensuring that there is, within the responsible agencies, an ability to respond to the needs of the Community affected by illness, and an ability to maintain essential public services in light of increased demand and significantly reduced workforce. The Plan outlines National, Regional and local management and co-ordination arrangements, and the key roles and responsibilities of the NHS and Local Authorities.
4. Although the Plan has been formally lodged with SEHD, intensive work continues between NHS Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire Councils on the further, detailed planning of the emergency response to an Influenza Pandemic. There is acute recognition of the importance of the best possible preparedness to deal with an Influenza Pandemic, which most experts believe is inevitable. Accordingly, NHS Lanarkshire and both Councils are taking forward the planning of major exercises, aimed at testing the Plan. Crucially, this will include the key issue of communication arrangements, which are addressed at Annex G on pages 68 – 71 of the Plan.

5. The NHS Board is asked to endorse the Influenza Pandemic Plan, submitted to the Scottish Executive Health Department. Further progress reports on the planning arrangements for managing an Influenza Pandemic will be brought to future meetings of the NHS Board.

NJA/OD
13 February 2006