

Lanarkshire NHS Board

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**NHS Board Meeting
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EMERGENCY PLANNING - UPDATE

Emergency preparedness and planning has assumed a higher profile in recent years. It is, however, recognised that in addition to the threat of terrorism, the Health Service continues to be faced with a wide spectrum of emergencies ranging from outbreaks of infectious disease, contamination of public water supplies, food, poisoning, and industrial action such as fire and fuel strikes to road traffic accidents.

Planning Committees

Planning for major emergencies is undertaken by a number of well established groups. These include:

- The Lanarkshire Emergency Co-ordination Committee chaired by the Board's Director of Public Health, with membership comprising of the Emergency Planning Officer, Consultant in Public Health Medicine (Communicable Disease & Environmental Health), Accident & Emergency Consultants, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Head of Communications, Corporate Affairs Manager and planning representatives from both Acute & Primary Care Divisions and the Scottish Ambulance Service. It has various sub groups.
- The West of Scotland Emergency Co-ordination Group chaired by Glasgow NHS Board's Emergency Planning Officer with membership from each of the West of Scotland NHS Boards and a number of the Divisions and the Scottish Ambulance Service.
- The Emergency Planning Officers' Group chaired by the National Health Emergency Planning Officer.
- The Lanarkshire Health Service Clinical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Sub Group
- The Acute Division Emergency Planning Group
- The Primary Care Division Emergency Planning Group
- Hairmyres, Monklands & Wishaw Emergency Planning Committees

DCM/JP
15/03/06

Multi Agency Response

A major incident rarely affects one organisation only and a multi agency integrated response is recommended nationally.

The Strathclyde Emergencies Co-ordination Structure has 3 groups – Strategic, Tactical and Local. The Strategic and Tactical Groups are chaired by the police.

The local Lanarkshire Group is chaired by the local authorities and the membership includes representatives from both North & South Lanarkshire Councils, the Police, Strathclyde Fire Brigade and the Scottish Ambulance Service, the State Hospital, Lanarkshire NHS Board and the two Lanarkshire NHS Divisions.

Response to an Emergency/Incident/Outbreak

In the event of a major incident, emergency or an outbreak with the potential to affect the health service in Lanarkshire, the Department of Public Health is notified through duty and on-call arrangements. The on-call Consultant in Public Health Medicine then arranges for the appropriate management team(s) to meet to provide an appropriate response.

An Outbreak or Incident Control Team is called when there is an outbreak of a serious infectious disease or where there is a waterborne incident. The membership includes the local Incident Management Team, but may be expanded to include representation from the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, the local authorities, Scottish Water and other agencies.

The Major Emergency Support Team will be activated when the scale of the emergency is such that the incident is difficult to manage. This could be due to the level of press or political interest or the scale of the incident. The Support Team membership would be at Chief Executive and Director of Public Health Level. It would provide a strategic overview of the NHS and local authority involvement, ensure continuity of services and act as a contact point for outside agencies and politicians, facilitating the emergency team's concentration on managing the incident.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear

The deliberate terrorist release of chemical or biological or radiological materials has a number of differences from the more usual type of emergency.

In this situation, early warning could be given and many more people are likely to be affected by such an incident. The emergency response is led by the Police and a joint health advisory cell (JHAC) would be established as part of the Strategic Coordinating Group and there would be higher level of involvement from U.K. government. Whichever threat exists, the principles of risk analysis namely risk assessment, risk management, risk communication are essential, and the response must include information, gathering and surveillance, management of the response by a JHAC or public health incident teams, information for the public and professionals, testing of samples, treatment of casualties and protective clothing provided for staff.

The Scottish Ambulance Service has a led role in decontamination of the public exposed to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. Chemical protection suits are available in the A&E departments. Pods of antibiotics and other treatments are stockpiled by central government.

In Lanarkshire, the Major Emergency Planning Group meets regularly. The Major Emergency Plan has been updated taking account of recent national guidance and circulated to key players for comment over recent months. The revised plan has been circulated to key players and is also available on the Intranet.

Additional recent emergency planning activity has included:

- 1 The production of a more detailed Pandemic Flu Plan and Annexes which was submitted to the Scottish Executive as requested for 31 January 2006. The Pandemic Flu Annexes are being further developed and will be submitted in July 2007.
- 2 Smallpox Mass Vaccination Plan is on target for completion by 31 March 2006.
- 3 Revision of Foodborne Outbreak Plan is ongoing.
- 4 Revision of Blue Green Algae Plan Work is in progress.
- 5 Planning for Avian Flu. National Guidance was received on 02 March 2006. A local multi agency group (Local Authorities, Veterinary Service and Health Service) will be led by Public Health to review the implications of the national plan for Lanarkshire.
- 6 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) A stockpile of PPE is being purchased for use in CBRN situations and also for use in the event of avian flu or pandemic flu
- 7 The Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) plans are being finalised by the Local Authorities.
- 8 Training and Exercising:
 - a] Lanarkshire Board, Acute & Primary Division staff participated in a West of Scotland Pandemic Flu Exercise 'Eastern Bird' in September 2005.
 - b] Training for participation in JHAC procedures has been provided for the Director of Public Health and Consultants in Public Health Medicine in December 2005 and January 2006.
 - c] Funding has been provided for CBRN training for A&E staff.
 - d] Public health participated in an interagency water failure exercise in 2005.

- e] The Director of Public Health/Consultants in Public Health Medicine participated in health protection training last year as part of their accredited Continuing Professional Development.
- f] Monklands Hospital and Hairmyres Hospital plan to carry out emergency preparedness table top exercises in mid April and mid May 2006 respectively