

Lanarkshire NHS Board

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NHS Board Meeting  
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## **EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE**

Emergency preparedness is an increasingly high profile responsibility for NHS Boards and it is important for the Board to be updated regularly on emergency planning matters. This report provides an update since the last report in March 2006.

The focus in emergency planning has been on preparation for a flu pandemic, for implementation of mass smallpox vaccination should the need arise and on the development of business continuity planning.

The report highlights, in particular, recent training and exercises at national, regional and local level both within the NHS and with our partners in North & South Lanarkshire Councils, Strathclyde Police and Fire & Rescue and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The Board is asked to note the report.

## BOARD PAPER 25 JULY 2007

### EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE

Emergency preparedness is an increasingly high profile responsibility for NHS Boards and developing new and reviewing existing plans is an ongoing task. Since the last update (March 2006), new plans have been developed for Pandemic Flu, Smallpox Vaccination and Business Continuity.

**Pandemic Flu Planning** following feedback from the Scottish Executive on the flu pandemic plan submitted in March 2006, the Pandemic Flu Multiagency Group agreed that further revision of the pandemic flu plan should be carried out along with development of more detailed local planning. Monklands Hospital has developed its local plan. Wishaw and Hairmyres are developing theirs.

Additional national guidance was received in March 2007 and the revision is taking account of this. Recent guidance has also been received on Community Care aspects of Pandemic Flu Planning. The Scottish Executive is currently examining the Human Resource issues which would arise during a pandemic, including anticipated absenteeism rates, redeployment of staff and rapid recruitment and retraining of staff.

### Smallpox Mass Vaccination Plan

NHS Lanarkshire submitted the Lanarkshire smallpox vaccination plan to the Scottish Executive in the spring of 2006. Clarification was sought on a number of practical issues including implementation and associated expenditure which would be necessary should this become necessary. The Scottish Executive suggested that a number of issues such as IT support should be tackled on a national basis. The Executive has indicated that a day seminar will provide feedback in due course.

#### Mass Vaccination Centre

In conjunction with North Lanarkshire Council, a mass vaccination centre was set up in Glencairn Primary School, Motherwell and provided information on the space and requirements for establishing such a centre.

### Business Continuity Planning

The Scottish Executive organised a Business Continuity roadshow to explain the duties of 'category one responders' under the new Civil Contingencies Act. Current business continuity arrangements were examined in the autumn of 2006 and it was clear this aspect of emergency preparedness required further work. A NHS Lanarkshire Steering Group was established to develop the business continuity process. The need for external assistance was considered and presentations received from Business Continuity Organisations. It was subsequently decided to develop our plan with short term support from an experienced NHS planner. A template was developed for all departments to follow and are included as annexes to the plan, which was approved by the Corporate Management Team in April 2007.

The plan requires further development and this is being addressed through the Steering Group.

## **TRAINING & EXERCISES**

Training and exercises are now common place. NHSL participates in national, regional and local exercises to ensure all staff who have to respond to such events are increasingly exposed to a variety of scenarios. Two national training exercises have taken place since the last report to the Board in March 2006.

*Exercise Cutty Sark* was a large multi-agency continuous Counter Terrorism Exercise which took place from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 over 72 hours. It involved the establishment of a Police led Strategic Control Centre supported among others by a Joint Health Advisory Cell. There were a number of live play incidents including a hijacking at Prestwick Airport and an explosion in a train in Glasgow.

15 NHS Lanarkshire staff participated in the exercise both at the Control Centre and at one of the incident scenes. These included the Director of Public Health, consultants and specialist registrars in public health medicine, the General Manager, Hairmyres, A&E Consultants, the emergency planning officer along with other representatives from senior managerial, communications and administrative and secretarial staff.

### JHAC (Joint Health Advisory Cell) Plan

As part of the preparation for the exercise, the West of Scotland Health Boards in conjunction with Health Protection Scotland prepared an operational JHAC manual which included details on the composition of a JHAC along with individual action cards. The manual proved valuable during the exercise and now forms part of NHSL's emergency planning guidance.

Prior to the exercise most public health medicine consultants and registrars participated in training events organised by Health Protection Scotland (HPS) designed to familiarise them with their role in a JHAC.

*Exercise Winter Willow* was a Major Multi-Agency Pandemic Flu Exercise held over two periods in January and February 2007. The January session was for the UK and Scottish Government Departments only, while the sessions on 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007 involved the Strategic Coordination Group in Strathclyde and the local health service pandemic flu groups.

A total of 9 NHS staff including the Director of Public Health, CPHMs, the Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health, Head of Communications, the Primary Care Medical Director and the General Manager of Monklands Hospital attended the strategic coordination group sessions in Glasgow. In Lanarkshire, two meetings of the staff likely to make up the Lanarkshire multi-agency Pandemic Influenza Coordination team were held and 14 different scenario issues were discussed. Representatives from public health, the police, both local authorities, primary care and the acute sector were present.

Exercises New Salesman and Gray Mare 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 respectively was a 2 day table top counter terrorism exercise "Exercise Gray Mare" was a follow-up to

the live play exercise "Cutty Sark" held in 2006. It focused on recovery issues. The Director of Finance and 4 other NHS staff participated.

12 NHS Lanarkshire staff attended a Pandemic Flu Day jointly hosted by the Royal College of Physicians and the Scottish Executive on 05 June 2007.

### **Local Training**

Dr Maguire, A&E consultant, Hairmyres organised a table top exercise to review the hospital emergency plan on 07 September 2006. Following the Hairmyres hospital exercise, a hospital Major Incident Planning Group was established.

11 A&E staff and the emergency planning officer received training in the safe use of the CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suits and in the erection of the portable inflatable decontamination tent at Hairmyres Hospital. The training was provided by the Scottish Ambulance Service special operations team.

Dr Railton gave a talk on radiation to A&E staff at Wishaw Hospital on 06 July 2006.

As part of local GP pandemic flu awareness raising, Dr Mackie, Mr Mallinson and Mr Robertson gave presentations on pandemic flu to the Wishaw and Newmains Locality in June 2007.

### **On Call Executive Directors Training**

An emergency on call rota for executive directors was established in April 2007. A training seminar led by the Training Director of the Health Protection Agency covered NHSL's responsibilities as a Category one emergency responder under the Civil Contingency Act 2004, in November 2006. A second training session led by Dr Jim McMenamin, HPS and Chief Inspector Kinnell, Strathclyde Police and Mr David Hutchison, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue took place on 25 June 2007.

### **Multiagency Training**

NHS Lanarkshire and South and North Lanarkshire Councils held awareness raising events in May 2006. 120 staff from the health service, the local authorities, police, fire and ambulance service attended the two events.

Health and local authority staff attended a consultation day on 31 May 2007 in Motherwell which looked at the best way to develop the Major Incident Support Counselling Teams.

The Emergency Planning Officer attended a multiagency seminar on Avian Influenza and Newcastle (poultry) Disease, a Scottish Executive consultation on the development of Emergency Communications to replace the Emergency Communications Network (ECN) in April 2007, and Emergency Planning Practitioners day on 06 June 2007.

**Dr D C Moir**  
**Director of Public Health**