

Gateway no: 17820

July 2012

To: Chief Executives of:
Health Protection Agency (HPA),
Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Clusters,
Primary Care Trust (PCT) clusters,
Upper tier and unitary Local Authorities (LAs),
HPA Directors, Regional Directors of Public Health

Cc:
Chief Executives of NHS Provider Trusts
Chief Executives of Ambulance Trusts
Local Resilience Fora (LRF) chairs

Dear Colleague,

Local Health Resilience Partnerships: implementation information and joint resource pack

New arrangements for local health emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR) will start from 1 April 2013 as part of the changes that the Health and Social Care Act 2012 makes to the health system. Information about these new arrangements was published on 3 April 2012¹.

A key feature of the new arrangements is the formation of Local Health Resilience Partnerships (LHRPs). This letter provides further details and information to support the local roll-out of LHRPs over the next eight months, to which all organisations will need to contribute.

Local Health Resilience Partnerships

LHRPs are intended to provide a strategic forum for joint planning and preparedness for emergencies for the new health system and to support the health sector's contribution to multi-agency planning and preparation for response through Local Resilience Fora (LRF). They build on approaches already adopted in many parts of the country. They are not statutory organisations and accountability for emergency preparedness and response remains with individual organisations, in line with their respective statutory duties.

The new system will offer considerable benefits, including:

- a more consistent approach across England, permitting better understanding of health preparedness at LRF level and nationally;

¹http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_133597.pdf

- leadership of planning and resilience at a senior level with a focus on cross-agency preparedness; and
- opportunity for better integration between health and local government emergency planning for the protection of each community.

Supporting implementation

The formation and implementation of LHRPs is the shared responsibility of its members. The materials accompanying this letter will assist in the roll out of LHRPs locally and provide a consistent framework for EPRR across the country whilst recognising the need to reflect local requirements and to build on the strong relationships that already exist between health and multi-agency partners.

The materials have been co-produced by practitioners in the NHS, Health Protection Agency (HPA), Public Health and Department of Health (DH) and with advice from key stakeholders in local government and the wider resilience community. They comprise:

- a summary of the principal EPRR roles for health sector organisations;
- a model terms of reference for LHRPs; and
- a model concept of operations for LHRPs.

We have agreed that the NHS Commissioning Board Authority (NHS CBA) will support the roll-out of LHRPs for each LRF area, working closely with SHA and PCT clusters, NHS providers locally, HPA / Public Health England (PHE), local government and LRFs. Further information and guidance will be provided shortly.

Assurance of new arrangements

It is essential that health sector emergency preparedness and response remains resilient through into April 2013 and beyond. In order to effect safe transition to our new system, current emergency plans and procedures will remain in place throughout 2012/13.

The formation of LHRPs and updating of core emergency response arrangements to take account of the new structures and organisations is a key requirement for resilience from April 2013. In order to allow time for this work to be completed, it is anticipated that the co-chairs of each LHRP (one NHS CBA Local Area Team Director and one Director of Public Health) will be identified and will start leading the LHRP in shadow form by the end of November 2012.

System assurance of the new local, regional and national response arrangements will be provided through a series of four regionally based exercises in the North, Midlands and East, the South and London between November 2012 and March 2013. These exercises will involve multi-agency partners and plans are currently under development. Off-the-shelf exercises will be available for all areas to assure themselves of their readiness for the new system. Further details of transition assurance arrangements will be provided shortly.

We recognise that our organisations are entering a further busy period during the summer, with intensified work on managing the transition into new structures. Emergency preparedness, resilience and response forms a key part of this and we are grateful to you for your commitment and support in this.

Yours faithfully



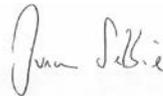
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