

NORTHUMBERLAND TYNE AND WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting Date: 23 September 2015

Title and Author of Paper:

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Assurances
Dr Damian Robinson

Paper for Debate, Decision or Information: Decision and Information

Key Points to Note:

- NHS England publish Core Standards for EPRR annually.
- NHS providers are required to undertake a self-assessment against the standards and produce a workplan for any areas not rated as green.
- Of the 52 standards that apply to mental health trusts, 0 are rated red, 4 amber and 48 green.
- The Trust Pandemic Influenza plan is included for sign off and will address one of the amber rated standards.
- A workplan is in place to address the other amber rated standards by the end of March 2016.
- The trust can demonstrate full compliance with the standards through either the self-assessment or workplan to address amber rated standards.
- The Trust is also required to assure CCG led Systems Resilience Groups on specific mental health questions in preparing for surges. An overview is included in the report for information.

Outcome required: Decision on the approval of the Trust Pandemic Influenza Plan and EPRR Core Standards self-assessment matrix to be returned to NHS England by 2 October 2015.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Assurances

1 Purpose

The purpose of the report is to update the Board of Directors on the current position of the trust in meeting the NHS England Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) and seek approval for the submission of the self-assessment to NHS England. An update on winter preparedness assurances provided to Clinical Commissioning Groups is also included.

2 Background

NHS England first published Core Standards for EPRR in 2013, to provide a framework for self-assessment, peer review and assurance. All NHS providers are required to undertake an annual assurance process on the standards and ensure their Boards are sighted on the level of compliance achieved. This includes the results of the self-assessment and any work plan to address areas of improvement.

The North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) coordinates the assurances for winter preparedness on behalf of CCG Systems Resilience Groups. A wide set of standards have been published, with 5 specific questions relating to mental health trusts.

3 NHS England Core Standards for EPRR 2015-16

The EPRR Core Standards are the minimum standards which NHS organisations must meet. The standards are reviewed and updated on an annual basis in view of lessons identified from testing, national legislation and guidance changes and updates to the NHS England governance programme.

The main set of standards for 2015-16 relate to governance, risk assessment, maintenance of plans, command and control, communications, information sharing, co-operation and training and exercising.

Some standards in the section looking at hazardous materials (HAZMAT) incidents are also relevant to mental health trusts, as there is a duty of care towards self-presenting patients who have been exposed to, or potentially exposed during a HAZMAT incident.

The standards for 2015-16 also include a section looking specifically at planning for an influenza pandemic and require Trusts to have:

- updated their pandemic influenza arrangements to reflect changes to the NHS and partner organisations, as well as lessons identified from the 2009/10 pandemic including through local debriefing
- developed and reviewed their plans with LHRP and LRF partners
- undertaken a pandemic influenza exercise or have one planned in the next six months
- taken their pandemic influenza preparedness plans to Boards / Governing bodies for sign off

It should be noted that a pandemic influenza exercise has not yet been held, but one is taking place in December 2015, within the timescales required by the standard.

Three further sections looking at HAZMAT response equipment, Marauding Terrorism and Firearms Attack and Hazardous Area Response Teams do not apply to mental health trusts.

Of the 52 applicable standards for Mental Health, the Trust has rated itself green against 48 of the standards and amber against 4 standards, as shown in the table below. No standards have been rated as red. A full version of the standards and the Trust self-assessment against each is attached as Appendix A.

Section	Red	Amber	Green	Not Applicable	Total
Core Standards	0	1	40	11	52
HAZMAT	0	2	5	7	14
Pandemic Influenza	0	1	3	0	4

The outstanding amber rated standards in the Core Standards and HAZMAT sections relate to Hazardous Materials Incidents. The trust has a draft plan for responding to HAZMAT incidents, which will address these areas. The plan still needs to be taken through the ratification process but will be completed prior to the end of March 2016.

Core Standard DD4 requires the Trust Pandemic Plan to be signed off by the Board of Directors. The plan was approved by the Strategic EPRR Group in May 2015 and is attached as Appendix B for Board approval. Subject to this approval, the self-assessment and workplan will be amended.

Based on the self assessment and workplan, organisations are expected to state their level of compliance with the standards, as per the definitions below:

Compliance Level	Evaluation and Testing Conclusion
Full	The plans and work programme in place appropriately address all the core standards that the organisation is expected to achieve.
Substantial	The plans and work programme in place do not appropriately address one or more the core standard that the organisation is expected to achieve.
Partial	The plans and work programme in place do not adequately address multiple core standard that the organisation is expected to achieve.
Non-compliant	The plans and work programme in place do not appropriately address several core standard that the organisation is expected to achieve.

In view that the self-assessment and workplan cover all of the required standards, the trust can demonstrate full compliance with the EPRR Core Standards for 2015-16.

NHS England are holding a regional workshop in October 2015 to peer review Board approved self-assessments. Internal Audit are also due to review EPRR arrangements as part of the Board Assurance Framework compliance in October 2015. The standards will be provided as part of this process to ensure that all evidence is in place for the self-assessment.

It is anticipated that the national assurance process will be completed via a submission to the NHS England Board by 31 March 2016. Once this has been accepted, NHS England will be in a position to provide assurance for 2015-16 to the Department of Health and the Secretary of State.

5 Winter Assurances

North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) coordinate the winter assurance framework across all CCGs in the region on behalf of NHS England. Each CCG's Systems Resilience Group (SRG) is required to provide a statement of compliance with winter assurances based on a template of over 150 questions. There are five key areas for mental health trusts to respond to:

- Does the SRG Terms of Reference require a mental health representative to be present to ensure quoracy; and does the local strategy encompass local Crisis Care Concordat Action Plan commitments?
- Is there an on-site 24/7 A&E liaison mental health service providing prompt specialist assessment, triage and intervention as appropriate and working across the full age range?
- Is there 24/7 access to crisis resolution home treatment services (operating with fidelity to the effective CRHT model and CAMHS crisis services is in place.
- Is the SRG assured that there is sufficient availability of S136 health based places of safety to ensure that people (particularly children and young people) are not held in police cells
- The local Directory of Services must include complete, accurate and continuously updated information regarding mental health crisis services (for CYP as well as adults). All NHS and local-authority funded mental health services should be required as part of their contracts to provide and maintain a detailed listing on NHS Choices of the services they provide, details of access arrangements, contact details and arrangements for referral or self-referral

Responses to each of the CCGs have been provided from the Trust's Community Services Group at the end of August. The Winter Contingency Plan and Seasonal Flu Vaccination Plan have also been updated and provided as additional assurance.

Further to this, an event was also hosted by NECS on 17 September with partner organisations across the region to share information, highlight work that has been taken

forward during the summer and promote areas of good practice looking forward to winter 2015-16. Areas of interest have been provided to Group Directors and added to the trust's winter plan.

6 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board of Directors:

- i) Note the contents of the report and the Trust level of compliance with the NHS England Core Standards for EPRR
- ii) Approve the action plan to address the amber rated core standards
- iii) Approve the updated version of the Trust Pandemic Influenza Plan
- iv) Note the winter assurances provided to CCG's

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September 2015