



KCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Meeting – 6 January 2012

Question 1	How robust is NHS emergency resilience planning and preparedness in Kent?
Answer to Question 1	<p>Under the Civil Contingences Act 2004 (CCA) and the NHS Emergency Planning Guidance and underpinning material 2005 all NHS Trusts are required to prepare major incident response plans, business continuity plans. In addition all NHS Trusts are required to produce and issue specific plans for threats such as pandemic flu and Heatwave. As the lead government department for NHS Emergency Planning the Department of Health requires Strategic Health Authorities to provide assurance that these plans are in place, tested and fit for purpose. On behalf of the Strategic Health Authority the PCT Cluster conducts annual assurance surgeries which ensure the requirements of the Civil Contingences Act and the NHS guidance have been met. This process has demonstrated that each NHS Trust in Kent has exceeded the</p>

	<p>guidance to have plans in place and tested as required of the guidance.</p> <p>All NHS Trusts in the County are fully engaged with the Kent Resilience Forum which includes the emergency services and KCC amongst other partners. The forum is a platform for the statutory agencies to plan and exercise together ensuring the emergency response in Kent is fully intergraded.</p>
Question 2	What specific NHS plans exist to prepare for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games?
Answer to Question 2	The Kent Resilience Forum has a sub group dedicated to planning for the impact of the Olympics in Kent. With the full engagement of the NHS this group has produced a framework and plans which will be tested in a series of exercises in the run up to the Olympics.
Question 1a	What are the main features of NHS Strategic Major Incident Response Plans in Kent?
Answer to Question 1a	<p>Below is an extract from the introduction of the NHS Kent & Medway Strategic Major Incident Response Plan</p> <p>Scope of the Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Plan outlines the Strategic Major Incident response for the Kent and Medway PCT Cluster. 2. Tactical emergency response plans and operational procedures have been produced by NHS Provider Trusts to support these arrangements. 3. The Plan is split into two parts. Part One is the General Strategic Response Plan for the Kent and Medway PCT Cluster, including definitions and plan administration. Part

Two details site and hazard specific activation and response procedures. Though the two parts should be used in conjunction with each other, part two is designed to be useable by responders as a series of independent working documents, for use in specific Major Incident responses.

4. The plan recognises the importance of maintaining the continuity of the routine business of both the organisation and the NHS during and after a Major Incident. This is achieved through the creation of business continuity plans and specific contingency emergency plans.

Aim / Objectives of the Plan

1. The aim of the plan is to provide a coordinated, countywide, strategic NHS response to a Major Incident.
2. Specific objectives of the plan are:
 - To ensure that arrangements are in place to respond effectively at a strategic level to any Major Incident, regardless of cause, in a planned and coordinated manner.
 - To minimise the disruption to health and social care services
 - To maintain effective communication with other health organisations and partner agencies
 - To effectively manage and support health and social care providers to ensure optimum care and assistance is delivered to those affected by the incident
 - To bring about a quick return to normal levels of

	<p>functioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To comply with requirements stipulated by the NHS Emergency Planning Guidance (2005) and the CCA (2004)
Question 1b	How are these plans produced, developed and Tested?
Answer to Question 1b	<p>Each NHS Trust produces a plan which is signed of by the Board and are tested in accordance with the NHS Guidance. Communications exercises are carried out every six months, a tabletop every year and a live exercise every three years. Post incident and post exercises reports are seen by the board.</p>
Question 1c	What are the main challenges to effective resilience planning by the NHS in Kent?
Answer to Question 1c	<p>In addition to the assurance process conducted internally the NHS enjoys a productive and positive relationship with all of our statutory partners through the KRF. We are confident that we will respond fully to any emergency that may arise in the County alongside our partners.</p>
Question 2a	What is the expected impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on Kent's health services' ability to deliver services as usual?
Answer to Question 2a	<p>Due to the planning process that the NHS is engaged with internally and with our partners within the KRF we have every confidence that there will be no discernable difference in the provision of NHS services from the point of view of our patients.</p>
Question 2b	What milestones and planning assumptions are Kent's health services working towards in preparing for the games?

Answer to Question 2b	The NHS is working to the national planning assumptions as circulated by LOCOG and the DH. Specifically for Kent we are participating in the planning for the Olympic Torch Relay and the live events in the County.
Question 2c	What are the resource implications for delivery health services during the Games and how will these be managed?
Answer to Question 2c	Based on the data provided by the Public Health Observatory relating to the healthcare provision at previous Olympic games it is not anticipated that there will be any implications during the Games time that cannot be dealt with through normal operating procedures. The NHS has well rehearsed procedures for providing treatment to foreign nationals. It is not anticipated that there will be any problems presented by staff absence.
Question 2d	What are the key issues facing Kent's health services in planning for the games over the remaining months prior to the games?
Answer to Question 2d	All Kent Trusts are resourced for and engaged with all relevant planning platforms. We are confident in our ability to meet the planning demands between now and July 2012. We also have systems and process which will ensure that all staff are aware of any extraordinary activity that may be required before during or after the Olympic Games.
Question 3	With regards both emergency resilience and Olympics planning, what features are unique to Kent contrast to other areas of the country?
Answer to Question 3	Kent is the gateway to Europe. We have reviewed our specific response plans the Channel Tunnel and the Port of

	<p>Dover and are fully engaged with the development of a plan for Ebbsfleet International. Kent is a major arterial route to the Olympics for domestic and foreign visitors to the Games, however, the NHS is confident that our well rehearsed plans and procedures place us in a strong position to deal with these challenges should the need arise.</p>
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