



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>South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) has legal responsibilities in this area defined by the Civil Contingencies Act (2004). Our compliance with these in addition to Department of Health guidance is regularly assured by the Strategic Health Authority. This assurance, coupled with joint working with health and other partners through the Kent Resilience Fora (KRF) ensures good internal and inter-agency resilience.</p> <p>Further assurance is provided through regular testing and exercising of single agency and inter-agency plans. These regular test specific capabilities and specific threats and risks against local and national priorities.</p>
Question 1a	What are the main features of NHS Strategic Major Incident Response Plans in Kent?
Answer to Question 1a	Please refer to the separate submission made by NHS Kent and Medway.
Question 1b	How are these plans produced, developed and Tested?
Answer to Question 1b	Whilst SECAMB is consulted as a partner in this process and engages in regular inter-agency exercising which includes the testing of this plan I would refer you to the separate submission made by NHS Kent and Medway for the details of this process.
Question 1c	What are the main challenges to effective resilience planning by the NHS in Kent?
Answer to	Changes to the resilience structure both with the abolition of

Question 1c	regional government offices and the on-going changes within the health community are providing new challenges. Through a successful history of and on-going commitment to working closely with partner agencies and ensuring internal resilience within the health resilience community we are confident that we can both meet the challenges and make the best of these changes.
Question 2	What specific NHS plans exist to prepare for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games?
Answer to Question 2	<p>As well as engagement in KRF sub groups with a specific focus on the Olympic and Paralympic period and close working with event organisers for the Paralympic Cycling and Torch Relay events, SECamb has an internal project board which meets on a monthly basis. This group reports to the Trust Risk Management Committee and provides regular briefings to the Board.</p> <p>The current focus within Kent, and nationally, is on ensuring a broad range of capabilities are available and tested to respond to a wide range of scenarios. At a strategic inter-agency level within Kent the focus is on building a framework which builds on embedded best practice. As planning continues over the next few months these capabilities will be dovetailed with the framework and operational plans to ensure an appropriate response to any scenario at any venue in Kent whether Olympic related or not.</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	Though the period of the Games will by no means be business as usual, our planning builds on business as usual processes, experience from previous Games and other large events such as Tour de France as well as almost 2 years

	<p>internal and inter-agency impact assessment and planning. Subject to the fulfilment of an outstanding funding bid to the Department of Health we are confident that mechanisms are in place to ensure that services are delivered as usual.</p>
Question 2b	What milestones and planning assumptions are Kent's health services working towards in preparing for the games?
Answer to Question 2b	<p>Externally a number of national and local resilience planning assumptions are in place for Games time. SECAmb is actively engaged in reviewing these in light of emerging intelligence and national changes. A number of external milestones provided by event organisers for the Paralympic cycling and Torch Relay events as well as internal project milestones are being used to measure progress, which is currently on track.</p>
Question 2c	What are the resource implications for delivery health services during the Games and how will these be managed?
Answer to Question 2c	<p>Ambulance services in the United Kingdom have a commitment to support a programme of National Pre-Planned Aid. This includes a commitment of 28 staff from across SECAmb for 3 weeks over the Olympics and around 15 staff for the Paralympics. These staff are drawn from across all 3 counties. In addition to this SECAmb has an, in principle, agreement to provide ambulance services to Olympic and Paralympic events occurring across the South East. In order to meet both of these requirements a leave restriction of 15% has been agreed for all areas of the Trust during the Olympics. This equates to approximately 50 operational members of staff and also increases the number of support staff to help with co-ordination functions. We are confident that this provides us with sufficient capacity to meet our existing demands and also our specific Games time resource</p>

	demands.
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	Though much of our internal planning is based upon regular communication to internal and external stakeholders we will need to ensure that this is increased significantly in the run up to the games so that all staff and external partners are aware of Games specific information. This work is underway and has a number of defined milestones within our Olympic project plan. Engagement is also taking place, through Visit Kent, with Games time training camps to ensure clarity of patient access to care for visiting athletes and in concert with Strategic Health Authorities to provide appropriate media messaging to international and UK visitors.
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	<p>Kent has a number of large transport hubs which are key access points for the Games. Well established relationships are being built upon to ensure appropriate support to increases in business as usual traffic and to understand any differences which may be required for incident response at these hubs during Games time.</p> <p>Kent is also a relatively late addition to the sporting venues, with Brands Hatch being one of the last venues announced. Again existing knowledge and relationships both at LOCOG and with local partners have allowed this planning to progress at the required pace to be on track for summer 2012.</p>