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Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Agenda item: 2.6

Board Meeting		Date of Meeting: 25 January 2017
Subject :	POWYS PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING UPDATE 2016	
Approved and Presented by:	Dr Catherine Woodward, Director of Public Health	
Prepared by:	Donna Bale, Civil Contingencies Manager Alison Merry, Consultant in Public Health	
Other Committees and meetings considered at:	None	
Considered by Executive Committee on:	21 December 2016	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on Powys Teaching Health Board's preparedness arrangements for responding to a pandemic influenza and to provide assurance that it will continue to be a significant part of the ongoing work plan for 2017.	Approval/Ratification/ Decision
	Discussion
	Information ✓

THE PAPER IS ALIGNED TO THE DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE(S) AND HEALTH AND CARE STANDARD(S):

Strategic Objectives:	SO 8: Ensure a well governed organisation
Health and Care Standards:	Governance, Leadership and Accountability Theme 1: Staying Healthy Theme 2: Safe Care

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is described as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) and is therefore required to comply with all the legislative duties set out within the Act.

Civil Contingencies Act 2004

The CCA places 5 statutory duties upon Category 1 responders, these being:

- assess the risks of emergencies;
- have in place emergency plans;
- establish business continuity management arrangements;
- have in place arrangements to warn, inform and advise members of the public;
- share information, cooperate and liaise with other local responders.

The risk of an influenza pandemic remains one of the highest threats to the resilience of the United Kingdom. Pandemic influenza is listed as one of the highest risks on the Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum Community Risk Register (<http://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/what-we-do/civil-contingencies>).

As a result of the potential for an influenza pandemic to severely impact on PTHB, the Board has requested that an update report on PTHB preparedness on this issue is provided on an annual basis.

During 2016, PTHB has participated in a series of exercises and workshops in the lead up to a National Tier 1 Pandemic Influenza exercise 'Exercise Cygnus' which took place in October 2016. The key recommendations following participation in these events are expected to be available by Welsh Government shortly and will be used to inform the review of the PTHB Pandemic Influenza Framework document and other supporting documents that underpin the Framework.

DETAILED BACKGROUND AND ASSESSMENT

PTHB Pandemic Influenza Framework

PTHB's Pandemic Influenza Framework was approved by Board on the 17th December 2014. The document provides an overarching framework that outlines the PTHB response in the event of an influenza pandemic. The Framework should be read in conjunction with the Wales Health and Social Care Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response Guidance (February 2014) and the Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum Pandemic Response Plan.

The aim of the Framework is to establish widely understood arrangements for responding to an influenza pandemic. These arrangements are based on three key principles that underpin the planning and response:

- Precautionary – plan for an initial response that reflects the level of risk, based on information available at the time, accepting the uncertainty that will initially exist about the scale, severity or level of impact of the virus.
- Proportionality – plan to be able to scale up and down in response to the emerging epidemiological, clinical and virological characteristics of the virus and its impact at the time.
- Flexibility – plan for the capacity to adapt to local circumstances that may be different from the overall UK picture – for instance in hotspot areas.

The Framework can be located via the PTHB intranet site:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/867/document/368697>

The PTHB Pandemic Influenza Framework is divided into specific planning areas to highlight the key issues that need to be considered in the event of a pandemic. These include:

A1: Workforce and Organisational Development Issues

A2: Personal Protective Equipment

A3: Primary Care

A4: Community Care Services

A5: Corporate Services

A6: Antivirals

A7: Vaccination

A8: Logistics

A9: Recovery

A10 Command and Control Structures

PTHB service areas including, Medicines Management, Workforce and Organisational Development, Facilities and Transport, Quality and Safety, Communications, Localities and Primary Care all have key roles in the planning and delivery of the Framework. Each specific planning area listed within the Framework has been assigned an appropriate planning lead from the respective service area to strengthen existing arrangements.

In addition to the main Framework document, a number of underpinning plans and policies have been put in place to provide more detailed guidance for the specific sections of the Framework.

PTHB Pandemic Influenza Planning

The PTHB Pandemic Influenza Planning Group (PIPG) is a multi-agency planning group that continues to meet in line with the agreed Terms of Reference. The group aims to work in collaboration with other key partners, including Powys County Council, PAVO, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust and representatives from General Medical Practices to strengthen local pandemic response arrangements.

The key priorities for 2016, as detailed in the last Board update report (December 2015), included:

- to undertake a review of the contents of the PTHB Pandemic Influenza Framework, and;
- consider a future exercise to test the response arrangements.

The review of the PTHB Framework document was originally scheduled to take place following Exercise Cygnus, a National Tier 1 exercise which was originally planned to take place in April 2016. The exercise was subsequently postponed until October 2016, which has in turn resulted in a delay in the review of the PTHB Pandemic Influenza Framework.

The PIPG met on 8th December 2016 and has commenced a full review of the Framework document and other supporting plans; this work will be completed by the end of March 2016. The review will incorporate the recommendations identified following PTHB's recent participation in Exercise Cygnus and will also reflect any organisational changes that have taken place.

The PIPG also intends to develop a local training needs assessment as part of its identified priorities for 2017/18. The training needs assessment will accompany the revised Framework and supporting documents to ensure that staff are appropriately trained in the key areas of response to a pandemic. This will include:

- a proposal to hold a future PTHB event to raise awareness of the Framework and supporting documents with Senior Managers
- local site training for specific response arrangements for example, the activation of Powys Antiviral Collection Points

National and Regional Exercises/Training

The national Tier 1 Pandemic Influenza exercise, Exercise Cygnus, took place on 19-20 October 2016. The aim of the exercise was to look at the preparedness of health systems in a pandemic scenario, with involvement at Ministerial level by UK government and the devolved administrations in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

PTHB has participated in a series of exercises and workshops that have been put in place to help inform future planning arrangements for Wales and also inform ministerial level discussion between Welsh Government and UK Government in Exercise Cygnus. The exercises and workshops are detailed below:

- The Director of Public Health represented PTHB in Exercise Cygnus as part of Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum's Strategic Coordination Group (13 October 2014). A debrief report has been produced and reflected in local plans.
- Welsh Government's 'Health Countermeasures Workshop' held on 14 October 2016, to look at how Welsh NHS organisations access the UK Stockpile for health countermeasures in a Pandemic. A Welsh Government Debrief Report will be made available shortly.
- Welsh Government's workshop to test Local Resilience Forum Pandemic Influenza Plans on 18 October 2016. A Welsh Government Debrief Report will follow shortly.

In addition:

- Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum held an 'Influenza Awareness Event' on 10 October 2016. PTHB was involved in the planning, delivery and attendance at this event which aimed to raise awareness of the difference between seasonal influenza and an influenza pandemic and of plans across multi-agency partners.

The Board is asked to NOTE the content of this update report for information.

NEXT STEPS:

- (1) Members of the PIPG will reflect the recommendations from participation in Exercise Cygnus into the PTHB Pandemic Influenza Framework and underpinning documents for approval at Executive Management Team by the 31 March 2017.
- (2) Members of the PIPG will develop a proposal to accompany the reviewed Framework and underpinning documents to consider a future PTHB wide event to raise awareness/test the PTHB Pandemic Influenza arrangements in the future.

Impact Assessments	
Equality Act 2010:	No negative impacts
Quality and Safety:	Positive impacts
Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011:	No negative impacts. The PTHB Pandemic Influenza Plan and supporting documents are primarily used for internal purposes
Financial Implications:	No financial impacts in respect of producing this annual update report
Legal Implications:	No negative impacts
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:	No negative impacts Contributes towards the Health and Wellbeing Goal: A Healthier Wales