

To: Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust Board
From: Tommy Flanigan, Trust Emergency Planning Lead
Date: 9th January 2006

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To update and agree Emergency Planning within the Partnership Trust and review developments over the past twelve months.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Developments in Emergency Planning within the Trust is supported by the Local Resilience Forum (Health Group) led by the Countywide Emergency Planning Lead at Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT.

2.2 All Emergency Planning developments within the County is co-ordinated and all plans are coterminous with each other.

2.3 This paper will describe Emergency Planning activity within this financial year.

3.0 DISCUSSION

3.1 Heatwave Plan

This plan was developed following Department of Health guidance which identified the need for a "Heat-health watch" system operating from the 1st June 2005 to 15th September 2005. This system was based on Met Office forecasts. Advice and information was made available to the general public and health and social care professionals, particularly those working with at risk groups. Mental Health clients were identified as an "at risk" group. From the guidance a Heatwave Plan was developed for the Trust.

3.2 Tabletop Exercises

Three tabletop exercises were conducted between the 23rd September 2005 and 21st October 2005. The tabletop exercises comprised of an exercise to test the Working Age Adult and Substance Misuse Care Group's involving an inpatient incident. An exercise to test the Older People and Learning Disability Care Group's involving a day centre incident. The final tabletop exercise tested the Executive Team and brought the previous two incidents together.

Following a risk assessment carried out by the Trust as part of its Major Incident planning process in 2004, a number of issues were identified as

being potentially high risk to the continued business of the Trust. Wherever possible these issues were included in the three exercises that were carried out within the Trust as part of its Major Incident Training Programme.

A total of forty five members of staff at all levels within the Trust have now completed the exercises. The discussions that the exercises prompted have highlighted a number of issues that will allow the Trust to develop its Major Incident planning process, commencing with the re-write of its Major Incident Plan in early 2006. The exercises have allowed the majority of the participants to gain a greater insight into Major Incidents and the effect that incidents of all types can have on the management and the Trust as a whole.

All participants showed a professional approach and commitment to achieving a satisfactory conclusion to the events identified in the scenario. Furthermore, it has enforced the procedures and principles that are the corner stone of the principles that underpin the values of the Trust.

3.3 Locality Action Plans and Wall charts

These have been developed following the tabletop exercises. Staff have been consulted during the construction of these documents. The document itself tries to tie together all incidents that may escalate into a major emergency.

3.4 Exercise Glevum

This countywide health service exercise was conducted on the 10th November 2005 to test the resilience of all Major Incident Plans developed by NHS bodies in the County. The Partnership Trust had to deal with an incident involving staff and clients of the Learning Disability Care Group. Initial feedback reports that there exists good communication between the Partnership Trust, the Hospitals Trust and the PCTs. This exercise did not produce a major emergency for the Trust and we supported others when a major incident was declared.

3.5 Pandemic Flu Plan

A Pandemic Flu Plan has been constructed; further work will have to be done to ensure that the Trust can withstand the affects of a Pandemic Flu outbreak. The Trust continues to work in partnership with healthcare colleagues in the County to provide a collaborative and robust response to the threat of Pandemic Flu.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Trust Board are requested to note this update and support further actions needed to respond to emergency situations and the threats posed by a Heatwave or Pandemic Flu outbreak.