

**NHS Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)**

**Statement of compliance**

1. **Introduction**

The NHS needs to plan for, and respond to, a wide range of incidents and emergencies that could affect the health of the population or patient care. These incidents could range from extreme weather conditions to an outbreak of an infectious disease or a major transport accident. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires NHS organisations, and providers of NHS funded care, to demonstrate that they are able to respond to such incidents and maintain the provision of services.

1. **Core Standards**

NHS England published core standards for emergency preparedness, resilience and response in 2013[[1]](#footnote-1). These are the minimum standards which NHS organisations and providers of NHS funded care must meet. The Accountable Emergency Officer in each organisation is responsible for making sure these standards are met.

1. **Statement of Compliance**

As part of the national EPRR assurance process for 2013/14, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has been required to assess itself against these core standards. The outcome of this self-assessment showed that, against the sections of the core standards which are applicable to the organisation, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is compliant (see Appendix A).

This self-assessment was examined and accepted by the NHS England Thames Valley Area Team in December 2013. The Area Team noted the following:

*The Local Health Resilience Partnership panel were impressed with the level of preparedness demonstrated by the Trust and commend all the work that has gone into the internal assurance of trust plans and polices. In particular the panel were impressed by the methodical attention to detail demonstrated with regard to policies and procedures.*

In addition, the self-assessment template was reviewed and accepted by the Trust’s Emergency Planning Group in January 2014.

**Katie Cleaver, Emergency Planning Lead**

**on behalf of**

**Yvonne Taylor, Chief Operating Officer**

**13 January 2014**



**Appendix A**

**Summary report on the EPRR Assurance Meeting with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

**23.12.13**

**Present:**

* Louise Watson, Director of Operations and Delivery, NHS England-Thames Valley (Area Team), Co-Chair Thames Valley LHRP;
* Gail King, Head of EPRR, NHS England-Thames Valley;
* Yvonne Taylor, Chief Operating Officer, Accountable Emergency Officer, Oxford Health;
* Katie Cleaver, Emergency Planning Lead, Oxford Health.

**Key points:**

Standard Statement of Compliance received. To be signed off by the Board Jan 2014. No improvement plan submitted due to complete compliance. Actioned sign off to be minuted on board papers and submitted to NHS England-Thames Valley;

Business Continuity Policy, Business Continuity Plan, Influenza Pandemic Plan, Cold Weather Plan and supporting documents were all received prior to the face to face meeting as evidence.

**Summary and Areas of Best Practice:**

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust have completed a 10 day internal audit for resilience planning in July 2013 and achieved an excellent rating. The only recommendation was having a named person against each action following meetings, debriefs and lessons learnt;

There is a dedicated Emergency Planning Group chaired by an associate director which meets quarterly;

There is full engagement of a non-executive director on the Board;

Several live incidents over the past two years including power outages and flooding have tested the organisation more fully and in a responding format. Structured debriefs have further enhanced the EPRR and business continuity plans in place;

Training for Resilience study day was attended by EP lead in August in order to prepare for the EPRR assurance process;

There are annual updates of all EPRR and business continuity plans;

Plans are actioned based, definitive and incorporate best practice with minimal duplication.

**Sections for discussion:**

Sections 5.34, 5.41 and section 5.43 were discussed in detail to clarify green status;

5.34: Mutual aid was assured as part of action cards and local partnership working arrangements;

5.41: Corporate Services already provide a 24 hour service and there is an extended hours programme for other services in 2014;

5.43: NHS 111 is liaised with on a daily basis as Oxford Health is the commissioner for the service.

To conclude the EPRR Provider Forum was discussed to define a way forward for 2014. The AEO was happy to be part of the group if there was defined roles and responsibilities for the forum and that they could be done by teleconference.

Recommendation

The LHRP panel were impressed with the level of preparedness demonstrated by the Trust and commend all the work that has gone into the internal assurance of trust plans and polices. In particular the panel were impressed by the methodical attention to detail demonstrated with regard to policies and procedures.

In discussion on some key areas outlined above it would provide greater assurance to bed informal understandings into policies and contractual arrangements although the LHRP will leave this to the Trust’s discretion to enact.

**Thames Valley Area Team**

**December 2013**

1. NHS Commissioning Board Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR), published on 7 January 2013. The core standards are available at <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/gov/eprr/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)