**RR/App\_BOD 35/2020**

(Agenda item: 18)

(Agenda item: 30)

**REPORT TO THE BOARD**

26 November 2020

**EU Exit Operational Readiness Plan**

**For information**

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| **Situation** | |
| On 16 September Professor Keith Willett wrote to Trusts confirming that he will be resuming the role as EU Exit SRO (along with Strategic Incident Director for COVID-19) and that the EU exit process will be managed alongside the ongoing COVID-19 response through the established national and regional incident coordination centres. A further letter was received on 04 November confirming this position and asking the NHS to take steps now to prepare for the end of the transition period. | |
| **Background** | |
| The United Kingdom European Union Membership Referendum took place on 23 June 2016. The result of the referendum meant that on 31 January 2020 the UK left the European Union (EU) and entered a transition period that is due to run until the end of the year. | |
| **Assessment** | |
| On 4 November, Professor Keith Willett hosted an ‘end of transition period’ webinar. This was attended by the director of corporate affairs – SRO for EU exit, the emergency planning lead and workstream leads. The webinar outlined the extent of the planning that had been taken by the DHSC in relation to continuity of supply, workforce, data and cost recovery. For example, the medicines and medical products national workstream has adopted a multi-layered approach consisting of alternative freight routes, trader readiness for EU and UK custom checks, buffer stocks of 6 weeks within the UK, regulatory flexibilities and enhanced shortage management via the national supply disruption response.  In terms of reciprocal healthcare and overseas visitors charging, the following points were made:   * Healthcare cover will change for EU citizens who visit the UK after 31 December 2020 and whose country does not have a reciprocal healthcare agreement with the UK. Those visitors will be charge for accessing NHS healthcare unless it is a service that would be free of charge for everyone or they are exempt from charging. * Guidance for the public, CCGs and providers on reciprocal arrangements and overseas charging will be updated once the Government has confirmed the new reciprocal arrangement with EU member states.   Further guidance is expected in the coming months to support Trusts to prepare for the end of the transition. Most recently, a list of suppliers who are being engaged centrally was issued on 06 November to avoid duplication of effort at a local level.  Trusts have been advised to expect to participate in cross-system assurance to test the level of preparedness within the NHS and to guide any further work needed in preparation for 31 December. An EU Exit lead has been appointed for BOB ICS and OHFT has submitted the EU Exit plan to the BOB ICS.  OHFT workstream leads have been asked to review the risk assessment contained in the OHFT EU Exit plan following attendance at the webinar. A meeting is planned for 10 November to raise any issues with the SRO for EU Exit and agree specific actions to engage with EU national staff members. | |
| **Recommendation/actions required** | |
| Actions required of the Board:   1. To note the progress made by the Trust to prepare for the end of the transition period. | |
| **Lead Executive: Kerry Rogers, director of corporate affairs** | |
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| **Date: 06 November 2020** | |
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