


Agenda Item 8

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	16 September 2015
Subject:	Emergency Planning – Exercise Black Swan

Summary:

Following on from the cancellation of the national Tier 1 pandemic influenza exercise, Exercise Cygnus in October 2014, the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum Management Group agreed in March 2015 to support the delivery of a multi-agency exercise within the county focussing on a pandemic influenza scenario.

The exercise will take place on Thursday 15 October 2015 and will allow us to test not only health and social care resilience, but also to consider the wider business continuity aspects of a pandemic influenza.

This paper presents a (power point based) briefing on the exercise design.

Actions Required:

Members are asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the presentation and opportunities presented by this exercise to assure ourselves of our emergency planning arrangements for a major health related emergency in Lincolnshire.
2. Accept an invitation to observe the exercise.
3. Receive an update on the learning from this exercise once collated.

1. Background

A new influenza pandemic continues to be recognised as one of the four Tier 1 risks to the United Kingdom due to the impacts on public health and well-being, and on the likely disruption to 'normal' services resulting from the large numbers of infected people and the impact on staffing due to both illness of staff and the requirement to care for dependents who may fall ill.

A pandemic is likely to have significant impacts on the provision of health and social care with demand for the services increasing as capacity reduces. It will undermine our normal processes of working and may lead to restrictions on public gatherings, transportations and education.

The exercise provides an opportunity to test our multi-agency plans for such emergencies, challenging our planning assumptions about the impacts of such a pandemic and rehearse key people in their roles to deal with pandemics.

2. Conclusion

The attached presentation provides members with an overview of local objectives of the exercise, the exercise design and the methodology for capturing lessons learnt.

3. Consultation

This is not a direct consultation item.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Powerpoint presentation – Exercise Black Swan

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Cheryl Thomson, who can be contacted on 01522 552345 or cheryl.thomson@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Exercise Black Swan

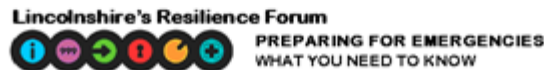


Influenza Pandemic

- Identified as a tier one risk to the UK
- One of the nine enduring risks to Lincolnshire
- Following on from the cancellation of Exercise Cygnus in 2014, the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum agreed to support a local multi-agency pandemic influenza exercise

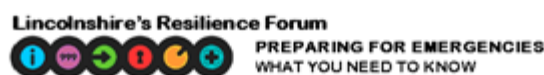
Exercise Aim

- To assess the preparedness and response to an influenza pandemic in Lincolnshire



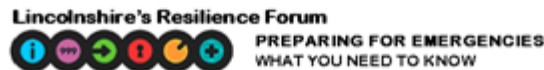
Exercise Objectives

- To test Lincolnshire Resilience Forum multi-agency capability and capacity to respond to a severe influenza pandemic
- To test category 1&2 responders and voluntary sector business continuity planning to maintain critical functions during a severe pandemic
- To rehearse key people in strategic and tactical lead responder and multi-agency coordination roles
- Engage with health, social care and education providers in considering the impact of resilience for a severe influenza pandemic
- Test partner communication processes (with and emphasis on learning from recent exercised and emergency responses)



Scenario

- New strain H2N2 first cases in SE Asia in June / July 2015
- CDC identifies the virus as H2N2 and SE Asian countries notifies WHO of cases late July
- First cases in UK from returning travellers on 31st August 2015
- Cluster of cases in the UK in 3 main hotspots in September 2015
- WHO declare a pandemic September 21st 2015
- Confirmed cases in Lincolnshire from 29th September 2015
- Lincolnshire peak week expected at the beginning of November 2015
- 1st UK wave completed by mid to late January 2016



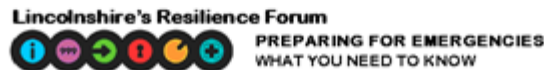
Exercise Design

- Command Post Exercise being held at the County Emergency Centre, Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Lincoln
- Time jump of three weeks halfway during the day to allow for both incident planning and emergency response scenarios to be discussed
- Recognition of a large area of 'exercise artificiality' to facilitate the scenario



Exercise Evaluation

- Identified Exercise Evaluator to observe and record the responses of participants
- Hot debrief at the end of the exercise
- Formal debrief with exercise participants following the exercise
- The generation of an exercise report with identified outcomes



Conclusion

- Brief the Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire on Exercise Black Swan
- To explain the Exercise design
- Opportunity for you to observe the Exercise
- Key learning resulting from the Exercise will be shared with the committee

