

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 Dr Tony Hill, Executive Director of Public Health

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	20 April 2016
Subject:	Emergency Planning – Exercise Black Swan

Summary:

Following an invite to attend the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to feedback on the lessons learnt from Exercise Black Swan, this report and supporting documents present an overview of the exercise; the key learning achieved, and the level of assurance given to the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

Exercise Black Swan was the LRF's annual multi-agency exercise held on 15 October 2015. The exercise focussed on the multi-agency planning and response to a severe pandemic influenza and presented a developing scenario throughout the day.

Clear aim and objectives were set for the exercise, and these were achieved throughout the day. The exercise identified areas of good practice as well as some lessons to be learnt, which have been captured in the Exercise Report.

Actions Required:

Members are asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the presentation and learning gleaned from the exercise.
2. Consider the level of assurance given to the Local Resilience Forum on the preparedness of the County to respond to an influenza pandemic

1. Background

A new influenza pandemic continues to be recognised as one of the six 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.

Exercise Black Swan allowed participants to explore the response to a severe pandemic influenza within the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) command structure, acknowledging the regional and national implications of such an incident. The exercise also provided an opportunity to test the LRF Multi-Agency Pandemic Influenza Contingency Framework which was re-written in 2014 to reflect guidance from the World Health Organisation and the Department of Health.

Following evaluation of the exercise an assurance opinion of 'some improvement needed' was delivered to the LRF on the preparedness of the County to respond to a pandemic of influenza. The rationale for assigning this level of assurance relates to the main finding of the exercise, which is the requirement for a comprehensive review and re-write of the LRF's Multi-agency Pandemic Influenza Contingency Framework. Whilst the document provided exercise players with good information relating to the national management of an influenza pandemic, it does not offer tactical options to assist local commanders and responders in the continuation of critical functions within the County. A task and finish group has been set up to undertake this review, with a completion date of September 2016.

Despite this, the response to the scenario was robust, addressing not only the health and social care needs, but fully considering the wider consequences associated with the scenario.

Attendance by Health Scrutiny Committee Members

Five members of the Health of the Health Scrutiny Committee attended the event as observers on 15 October 2016: Councillors Mrs Christine Talbot, Chris Brewis, Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown, Jackie Kirk and Mrs Sue Ransome.

2. Conclusion

In conclusion, the exercise report with recommendations has been presented to, and accepted by the Local Health Resilience Partnership, the LRF's Programme Management Board, and the Local Resilience Forum.

The Programme Management Board is monitoring the progression of the recommendations ensuring that the learning gleaned from the exercise is embedded into the management of future incidents and exercises.

The attached presentation provides members with an overview of the exercise review and the key lessons learnt.

3. Consultation

This is not a consultation item.

4. Appendices

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

5. Background Papers

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

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