

Item No. 8.	Classification:	Date: 31 March 2016	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Lambeth & Southwark Pandemic Flu Coordination Plan	
Wards or groups affected:		All	
From:		Ruth Wallis, Director of Public Health	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The board is requested:
 - a) To agree the draft Lambeth & Southwark Pandemic Flu Plan (Appendix 1).
 - b) To note that a multi agency Pandemic Flu Exercise was held in February 2016 to resilience assure the Pandemic Flu plan
 - c) To note the multi agency roles and implications for the key local partners.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Influenza (flu) is an acute viral illness that spreads rapidly from person to person when in close contact. Seasonal flu occurs every year, usually in the winter months, but a flu pandemic occurs when a new or re-emerging flu virus emerges which is:
 - markedly different from recently circulating seasonal strains,
 - able to infect people,
 - readily transmissible from person to person,
 - capable of causing illness in a high proportion of those infected, and
 - spreads widely because there is little natural immunity to it.
3. Pandemic flu is at the top of the UK National Risk register and one will occur at some point in the future. Until the event occurs the impact is unknown, so plans need to be flexible to address the breadth of possible scenarios.
4. The Lambeth & Southwark Pandemic Flu Coordination Plan outlines the local response to a pandemic; including actions to be taken and how the pandemic will be coordinated in the CCG and Southwark Council. It also provides an overview of the responsibilities of other key agencies.
5. During a pandemic NHS and Southwark Council commissioning and provider organisations will maintain their existing roles and responsibilities for the management of the local health and social care system. However, some pandemic specific activities and plans will also be required as the NHS and Southwark Council are likely to be particularly impacted due to an increase in demand for services coupled with a potential reduction in staffing and possible

supply chain disruptions.

6. The plan describes how the local coordination of the pandemic will be managed by Southwark Council by convening a Pandemic Coordination Group, under the leadership of the Director of Public Health.
7. A table top exercise to test local arrangements was held in February 2016 and involved representation from the CCGs, Southwark Council, Lambeth Council, SE London Surge Hub, PHE, NHSE and Kings. The overall aim of the exercise was to explore the coordination of and local response to an influenza pandemic, and had the following objectives:
 - To exercise the Lambeth & Southwark Pandemic Flu Coordination Plan
 - To understand command and control and coordination arrangements locally
 - To clarify roles and responsibilities of CCGs, Southwark Council, Lambeth Council and partners at each stage of a pandemic
 - To understand information and communication flows
 - To educate participants about pandemic flu and national and London arrangements
 - To consider business continuity arrangements
8. Participants at the exercise were keen to see the joint work between Lambeth and Southwark continue. The learning that arose from the exercise is being incorporated into the amended plan.

Policy implications

9. Department of Health guidance¹² recommends that multi-agency plans, covering the NHS, public health and social care need to be in place in each local health economy. The Lambeth & Southwark Flu Coordination Plan ensures we are compliant with recommendations from this guidance and other associated publications³.
10. The Plan provides a framework for the CCGs and local authorities to use during a flu pandemic and complements plans and guidance developed by the acute trusts, PHE and NHSE.

Community impact statement

11. The Lambeth and Southwark Pandemic Coordination Plan provides a local framework to be followed to mitigate the effects of a pandemic on the public, staff and organisations in Lambeth and Southwark. It includes a section about vulnerable people and how we might access information to ensure we try and help those less able to help themselves during a pandemic.

Legal implications

12. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (the Act) places a series of duties on local bodies (known as Category 1 responders) to assess the risk of an emergency

¹ Health and Social Care Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Department of Health 2012

² UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy 2011, Department of Health

³ Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Guidance for local planners, Cabinet Office, 2013

occurring and to maintain plans for the purpose of responding to an emergency. Local authorities are Category 1 responders. It also imposes duties on Category 2 responders (which includes CCGs) to provide information to and cooperate with other organisations during an emergency.

13. The Lambeth and Southwark Pandemic Flu Coordination Plan supports local compliance with the Act.

Financial implications

14. There are no financial implications contained within this report. However, in the event of a pandemic occurring, contingency funds may have to be found to cover any pandemic specific activities that need to be undertaken.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers	Held at	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Draft Lambeth & Southwark Pandemic Flu Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ruth Wallis, Director of Public Health for Lambeth & Southwark		
Report Author	Sarah Robinson, Health Protection Manager		
Version	Final		
Dated	18 March 2016		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			18 March 2016