

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE – 30th NOVEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT (JRU)

1. Pandemic Influenza

The latest report from the National Public Health Service for Wales (NPHS) suggests that there were 50.7 cases of flu like illness diagnosed by GPs out of every 100,000 people in Wales. This is equivalent to 1521 people in Wales contacting their GPs in the last seven days with flu like symptoms

But that figure is far lower than the estimated 4,200 people in Wales who had symptoms when numbers peaked in July.

The NPHS influenza surveillance scheme, which records reports of diagnoses of flu from more than 300 GP practices across Wales, shows low levels of influenza activity across Wales. Further detail can be found on the NPHS website:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=457&pid=38241>

There are currently no local issues around pharmacies not being able to deal with the increase in numbers.

The Multi Agency Silver Group covering NPT, Swansea and Bridgend is now meeting every two weeks at the Quays/Neath Civic Centre to discuss any emerging issues and implement planning arrangements.

Local Authority Silver Groups are also meeting regularly to discuss operational issues such as business continuity arrangements.

Social Service teams are working very closely with our health partners, independent care sector and the voluntary sector to ensure that the most vulnerable groups will receive the care they expect to receive.

The Guildhall in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Hospital in Baglan have been designated as the antiviral collection centres and will only become operational if the local pharmacies are unable to cope with the increase in cases.

Anti viral home delivery trial runs by the local authority have been undertaken in Neath Port Talbot and the same will be conducted in Swansea.

Vaccination programme

All NHS organisations have been asked to develop plans to vaccinate those frontline NHS staff eligible for vaccination and to maximise participation in these staff vaccination programmes. This programme is on going.

Both local authorities are now also in a position to offer key social care staff the opportunity to take up the vaccination.

Health has asked local authorities for mutual aid in supporting the delivery of a mass vaccination programme.

Local authority staff to provide administrative support/telephone appointments, working alongside our health partners, with some on site support at vaccination clinics also.

Singleton Hospital – Ward 15

Monday 9am-5pm, Tuesday 9am-5pm and Wednesday 11am-7pm

Morriston Hospital – Healing Foundation Laboratory

Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-5pm

Neath Port Talbot Hospital – Occupational Health Department

Monday 9am-5pm and Tuesday 9am-5pm

The Guildhall in Swansea has been identified as an additional vaccination centre to manage the programme being offered to local authority social care providers. The approximate numbers in Swansea are 5,500 and in NPT 2,500 respectively.

Occupational Health nurses from NPTCBC are working alongside health nurses and vaccinating key medical frontline staff.

ABM U LHB is currently undertaking the vaccination of approx 33,000 frontline health and social care staff over a 12 week period commencing on 26th October. Vaccines are only becoming available on a phased basis at present so the vaccination programme will grow in size week by week.

There will be sufficient vaccines available for the entire population of the UK in due course, but the key aim at the moment is to provide vaccinations on a prioritised basis.

A GP-led vaccination programme is being provided in parallel for higher risk groups within the community.

A Vaccination Programme is also being put in place by the NHS for higher risk categories of people within our communities. The following groups have been prioritised for vaccination in the following order;

1. Individuals aged six-months and up to 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups
2. All pregnant women, subject to licensing conditions
3. Household contacts of immune-compromised individuals
4. People aged 65 years and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups.

The Government has announced that under 5s are the next priority group to be offered vaccinations. The position regarding schoolchildren more generally is also being considered at present.

LEA teams are returning information weekly to the Welsh Assembly Government on school closures. As at 13th November, **no schools** have been closed in either local authority

Currently, no local authority services are experiencing any undue problems due to staff related absences linked to swine flu.

Swine Flu developments are moving quite likely and Members will be updated about all these issues at the JRC meeting.

2. Exercise Taliesin

A formal debrief took place on 8th July 2009, facilitated on behalf of WAG by the South Wales Fire Service. The Joint Resilience Manager attended a Welsh Assembly Government led Pandemic Flu workshop on 18th November.

A detailed report has been produced extending to some 32 pages. A large number of the issues are currently being managed through our immediate response to swine flu.

The salient issues are:-

- To develop a **business process** for the Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) as there were issues around protocols, standing agendas, administration and membership of the SCG that need to be resolved. Additionally, liaison with neighbouring SCG's to improve partnership working and sustainability of command & control over a prolonged period. *This is to be addressed by the SWLRF and is outstanding but through the H1N1 incident some of the working protocols of the SCG have been resolved having been practiced further.*
- Sign off of **media messages** by SCG and information messages to the public. *SWLRF to expand the media protocol and also identify message dissemination routes to the public. Practically, issues have been identified and some addressed through the H1N1 incident..*
- **Antiviral distribution** arrangements require more detail and knowledge about the differences between anti-viral and vaccines needs to be communicated. *Ongoing work has come about because of H1N1 and arrangements and knowledge evolved since Taliesin.*
- **Recovery** to be recognised and acted on early in the outbreak. *Recovery procedures to be on the SCG agenda from the on-set of an outbreak.*
- **Public health**, self help and infection control issues. *Arrangements and communications practiced and improved since H1N1 outbreak.*
- Issues around **excess deaths** – religions, deaths in prisons, funding for funeral directors.

Needs to be addressed by WAG for a common approach across Wales – outstanding.

- Information to and from WAG to be a more rapid process

Through the H1N1 incident, the Civil Contingencies Unit at South Wales Police HQ have been the conduit for information to and from WAG. The Frequently asked Questions and Answers document has also worked well, and proven useful. Therefore, in a 'real' incident the issue has not been such a problem.

3. **FloGas - Exercise Firefly**

FloGas is one of our five COMAH sites. The multi-agency exercise, organised by the Joint Resilience Unit, took the form of a tabletop exercise with three syndicate tables, ie,. Incident Scene/Control Rooms, Bronze (operational) and Silver (tactical), and a 'top table' consisting of the Exercise Planning Group. This followed a live on-site exercise two weeks earlier.

4. **Canalside, Aberdulais**

Meetings have taken place on 18th August and 15th September at Canalside with residents, representatives from the local authority, SWP, MWWFS, the Environment Agency and local members to discuss the multi agency flood plan and the need for a live exercise to take place.

Unfortunately, only 14 of the 32 properties have engaged in the information gathering process. **A meeting is being held on 25th November** to decide whether to go ahead with the exercise. If not, one solution will be to produce a flood leaflet for residents containing specific information.

5. **USAR**

Exercise USAR Cymru 09 is a multi agency exercise lead by the Wales Urban Search & Rescue team and Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Participants also include South Wales Police, British Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Neath Port Talbot CBC and the military. **It will take place on 21st November 2009.**

6. **Baglan Fire**

A report is being prepared. We are awaiting further information from the MWWF Authority.

7. **NPT/CCoS Risk Register**

At the last Resilience partnership meeting held on 9th September, stakeholders agreed to produce the risk register in a different format but before presenting to the JRC, they would like to sign off the final document. The register has been agreed and is attached as an appendix to this report.

8. Members Resilience Seminar

The date and venue has been agreed. It will be on the morning of 2nd March 2010 at the Orangery, Margam. Two keynote speakers have confirmed their attendance. Chief Constable Andy Trotter of British Transport Police and Chief Constable Peter Vaughan of South Wales Police.. Invitations will be sent out to all Members of both local authorities during the first week in December. The theme of the event will be 'Community Risk'.

9. Joint Resilience Unit

The team welcomed two new members in November. Ben Cromie joined us from NPT CBC and Neil Thomas joined us from SW Police. Both are settling in well.

Members are asked to note the content of this report

Paul Thomas

Joint Resilience Manager

20th November 2009