

**PIPP - Exercising Paper****Background**

Exercise Cygnus (2016) was a tier 1 exercise assessing the UK's preparedness for and response to a severe influenza pandemic, close to the UK's worst planning scenarios. As we approach the 2 year mark since this exercise and the completion of the cross Government Pandemic Flu Readiness Board (PFRB) programme, we are considering how we can continue to appropriately test our preparedness and response.

This paper therefore asks the Board to:

- Comment on the proposed exercise principles;
- Support the postponement of the planned Q4 tabletop exercise;
- Agree to a programme of Tier 1 pandemic flu exercises, including an exercise in 2022; and
- Consider the lessons outstanding from Exercise Cygnus, closing where appropriate.

**Principles**

To support in the development of future pandemic flu exercises and assist in the prioritisation of areas to exercise, this paper proposes the following principles:

- Exercises should be coordinated across DHSC, NHSE and PHE to prevent duplication;
- Exercises should test existing plans and strategies, rather than known gaps in knowledge;
- There should be a regular programme of tier 1 exercises to coincide with each new parliament and ensure continuity in preparedness;
- Where possible exercises should include Devolved Administration colleagues to ensure a joined up approach across the Four Nations (including in observer roles where active participation is not appropriate); and
- Lessons learned should be shared with other relevant Government departments to ensure continued cross-Government approach to pandemic flu preparedness.

**Is the Board supportive of the above exercise principles? Are there any other principles that the Board would seek to include?**

**Upcoming Exercises**

As part of the agreed EPRR Exercise Programme, a pandemic flu exercise is currently planned for Q4 and proposed to cover adult social care, as an area which has significantly progressed since the start of the cross-Government PFRB. In order to avoid the winter pressures period, it had been proposed that this exercise take place at the end of March 2019.

However, a number of exercises have already taken place or are planned in the Health and Social Care space, focusing on pandemic flu or the effectiveness of contingency plans, which we believe negate the need for this exercise:

Quarter/Year	Organisation/Team	Type of exercise	Exercise objective
Q1, 2018	DHSC	Ministerial	Test the Adult Social Care contingency