

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS UPDATE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (DHSC)

Issue

1. This paper:
 - reminds the PIPP Board of the pan flu programme re-prioritisation that took place at the end of 2018 to free up resource for no deal EU Exit planning;
 - sets out the progress made on those areas of work that continued and new priorities that arose; and
 - sets out the proposed work programme for the next 6 months.

Action required

2. Board members are asked to:
 - note progress against priorities;
 - agree the proposed work programme for the next 6 months;

Pan flu programme re-prioritisation at the end of 2018

3. Following the scale up of EU exit work, and with the support of ExCo, DHSC reprioritised the pan flu portfolio. A snapshot of decisions at the time is an **Annex A**.

Progress report since last PIPP meeting

Draft Pan Flu Bill

4. The draft Pan Flu Bill would introduce legislative easements and regulatory changes to assist with the implementation of the response in a pandemic. In relation to health and social care, it could allow for example, emergency registration of health professionals who have retired and hospital discharge without the requirement for a care package already being in place.
5. DHSC has finalised its suite of products including draft clauses and explanatory notes. However, there have been some delays in the Devolved Administrations completing their clauses and associated documentation due to policy and legal capacity being prioritised to EU Exit. CCS continue to work with the DAs to support them in finalising their contributions and DHSC EPRR Director recently visited each of the DAs in the summer to remind them of the importance of completing the Bill as soon as possible.
6. The intention was to put a 'for info' submission to UK ministers summarising the final bill during October. However, the DAs will not have completed their elements by then. A decision will therefore need to be made whether to defer the submission until all the DAs have completed their work or to provide an update submission in the interim.

Pan Flu vaccine APA re-procurement

7. The current UK contract is with Seqirus (based in Liverpool). It expires in May 2022. A work plan has been developed and work to initiate re-procurement is on track. This has included:
 - Two meetings of a JCVI/NERVTAG flu sub-group meeting to hear from manufacturers likely to have products suitable for use in a pandemic and to discuss PHE modelling outcomes.
 - Production of an Impact Assessment which confirmed that an APA would be beneficial (particularly because of the risk of a severe, multi-wave pandemic such as the one seen in 1918/19). This is currently with the Chief Economist for sign-off.

Annex A**Pan flu programme re-prioritisation at the end of 2018**

Work Area	Action
Pan Flu Bill	Continue
Perm Sec meetings on Pan Flu	Continue
Perm Sec written updates on Pan Flu	Continue
Quarterly Finance meetings	Continue
Clinical trials	Reduce
Pan Flu vaccine Advanced Purchase Agreement (APA) re-procurement	Reduce
Perm Sec action: schedule 2019/20 Pan Flu exercise	Reconsider Summer 2020
Perm Sec Brexit action on pan flu antibiotics	Move
NERVTAG recruitment	Move
Moral and Ethical Advisory Group - Membership and Recruitment	Stop
UK Pandemic Influenza Strategy Refresh	Stop
WS1 - healthcare surge (largely complete, DA engagement to develop plans outstanding)	Stop
WS2 - adult social care (largely complete for PFRB, CMO actions outstanding)	Stop
PFRB paper on NSC(THRC) update	Stop
PFRB Comms (completion of updated 4 Nations Strategy)	Stop
Perm Sec action: benchmark NHS readiness internationally	Stop
DHSC engagement in Clinical Countermeasures Board	Stop
DHSC engagement in National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFs) Board	Stop
NERVTAG action on clinical guidance	Stop
PIPP April meeting	Stop