

SG Pandemic Flu Preparedness Board
5th June 2019
Meeting 8
Meeting Papers

Papers 8.1 – 8.5 are collated in the order of the agenda.

The purpose of these papers is for note and to facilitate discussion to agree the next steps in for the Pandemic Flu Preparedness Board/ project.

Scottish Government Workstream Updates Summary: November 2018 – May 2019

Health and Social Care : Update April/May 2019

- Further work on pan flu operational guidance for health & social care in Scotland had been paused due to internal pressures and anticipation of UK Pan Flu Strategy review (see below) – now being progressed. Draft to be shared with pandemic flu contacts at Boards in June 2019, the Board pan flu co-ordinators group is being convened to consider the guidance
- UK-wide Pandemic Flu Strategy – had been due for review by Spring 2019 and would naturally inform the operational guidance for Scotland. However, work paused at UKG level and timescales for progressing work on Strategy unclear
- UKG work on finalising/disseminating options for response in the adult social care and community health care sectors also paused – will help to inform future iterations of Scottish operational guidance

Communications : Update April/May 2019

- SG Comms Activation/Mobilisation Toolkit has been finalised and agreed across SG Comms and Resilience. This also formalises the roles and responsibilities of a national Scottish Government comms cell, and the priorities for SG Comms which would form the basis of initial Ministerial advice

Additional updates for PFPB awareness?

- Engage with Scottish Public Communications Groups to raise awareness of the structures and key officials during an outbreak this will be progressed through 2019. However this and the remaining objectives are hampered in their progress by a lack of clarity of information from UK Government as to how, if and when they plan to finalise the Communications Plan, which has yet to go to Ministers, and what further work they envisage taking place beyond that.
- Now that the Activation Plan is concluded, it is likely that outstanding work could continue to progress without the overarching Board, but there is a clear risk of having no over-arching co-ordination structure across the various workstreams.

Legislation : Update April/May 2019

See annex A - Table for latest position of the draft Bill

Additional updates for PFPB awareness?

- SG going forward with 3 clauses to be included in the UK Bill
- Delays due to getting policy teams to sign up fully. Significant pushback due to policy not being able to engage with stakeholders
- Scottish legislation is more robust than other DAs. Therefore risk to Scotland being at a disadvantage if pandemic outbreak occurs is low.

Latest UK Government Bill Position

Provision Description	Include SG clause	SG Policy Instructions Drafted	Notes	RAG	Last Position
Closure of Schools and colleges	Yes	School PINs sent to SGLD Nov 2018 Colleges remain outstanding	OPC in process of making final amendments to draft clauses for school closures. Colleges: separate clauses required for colleges (Further Education) Note: Universities (Higher Education) are out with scope	Green Amber	<u>Schools</u> : to be completed by 10 th June 2019. <u>Colleges</u> : Policy area failed to engage despite repeatedly correspondence. Issue to escalated further urgently.

- confirmed UK Government policy content for a draft Pandemic Influenza Bill, to be held internally and taken through Parliament if required, to support the response to a severe pandemic. We have also worked closely with colleagues in the Devolved Administrations to seek to develop a one-UK approach;
- a comprehensive four nations pandemic influenza health-focused communications strategy; and
- options to ensure Government thinking is supported by moral and ethical advice.

Next Steps

Consideration of this risk holistically and collaboratively across Government and with the Devolved Administrations is vital. A lot has been achieved, but there is more to do to both maintain and enhance preparedness to an acceptable level. The intention is to finalise national arrangements; and prepare products to support the continued enhancement of local arrangements including refreshing the four nation UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy.

It is vital that this work continues to be prioritised and resourced by Departments, given the significance and scale of the risk. This cross-Government work will continue to be overseen by the Pandemic Influenza Readiness Board.”

- 6) The NSC subsequently granted the programme a one year extension to 31 March 2019 to complete remaining work.

Note: Progress made on activities in Scotland is provided at para 11 below.

- 7) In November 2018, the UK Pandemic Flu Readiness Board (PFRB) determined that due to competing government priorities (mainly EU Exit related) the project should be put on hold, with the exception of the development of the draft UK Pandemic Flu Bill which would continue. Since then, no further meetings have taken place. The PFRB is expected to meet in June 2019 (no details available yet) to discuss progress made, next steps; with an update expected to go to UK Ministers and the NSC in near future.
- 8) Since then, several workstreams have suffered delays and/or resource implications which have impacted on several key milestones, products and deadlines. It remains unclear when the cross-government project activities is likely to resume fully and /or complete its original aims and objectives. (It is expected this will be discussed at the PFRB meeting in June.)
- 9) Additionally, the main UK Pandemic Flu Strategy (2011) is due to be refreshed as part of the cross-government programme of work. A PID was submitted to the CG PFRB in November 2018 setting out key milestones and deadlines for work to be completed over the period November – summer 2019. This additional piece of work will also require to be undertaken as part of SG routine business over the course of 2019, as soon as work commences at UK level.

SG Pandemic Flu Readiness Board

- 10) In summer 2017, the Deputy First Minister commissioned a new SG Pandemic Flu Preparedness Board (PFPB) with cross-cutting SG membership to lead on Scotland’s interests at UK level and further develop preparedness in Scotland.
- 11) The PFRB agreed to operate a programme of 6 workstreams (compared to 5 UK workstreams) which extend across portfolios of responsibility. These are:

- Health and social care (inc Moral and Ethical)
- Legislative
- Excess Deaths
- Sector Resilience
- Communications
- SG Preparedness

12) Since the project inception a number of activities across workstreams have been developed which have improved the overall state of pandemic flu readiness across Scotland, and other UK nations. An overview of which is provided in table at para 18. Additionally, SG officials have established good working relations with counterparts in all 4 UK nations and contributed significantly to the list of deliverables sent to NSC in April 2018 (as set out in paragraph 5 above).

13)PFRB met approximately every 2 months up until November 2018 however recent meetings have been cancelled / postponed due to availability and competing priorities. The board last met on 13 November 2018 and is due to meet next on 5 June 2019. Recognising delays to the programme of work at UK and Scotland level, the board agreed to continue to meet at least until Autumn 2019. (Lifespan of the SG board is linked to the longevity of the parallel UK PFRB.)

SG Pandemic Flu Readiness: Project Team

14)A small SG project team was established in December 2017 for a one year period up until December 2018. Given the delays to the UK and SG programmes of work the project officer has been retained in post (originally until 31 March 2019 further extended until 30 June 2019). The project manager moved to a new post in December 2018. Staff resource is currently therefore being provided without budget allocation and requires to reviewed as a matter of urgency.

SG Workstreams

15)At the meeting of the PFRB on 13 November 2018 it was agreed to sign-off Sector Resilience and Excess Deaths workstreams from the programme and handover to business areas.

16)The remaining workstreams are at varying stages of progress. the PFPB also agreed to extending work on the remaining workstreams Health and Social Care (inc Moral & Ethical); Legislative; and Communications until at least 31 March 2019.

17)The H&SC, Communications and SG Preparedness workstreams are primarily being taken forward by staff as part of their business area roles and responsibilities. No additional staff resource(s) are required to complete outstanding tasks and actions. Workstream leads have however suggested they should remain part of current project governance arrangements and the focus of the PFPB / to help ensure outstanding work is fully completed.

18) The table below provides an overview of key achievements, products and progress made on original aims and objectives (remaining workstreams only):

Legislation	
Aims and Objectives	What has been achieved / delivered
Minimise potential disruption to all sectors during outbreak of pandemic flu.	Identified out of the recommendations from exercise Cygnus which apply to Scottish legislation, and if clauses need to be included in UK bill, and instructed relevant policy teams to liaise with their legal teams, and some PINs and legal instructions have been completed.
Liaise with UKG and DA's to consider, test and amend legislation on relevant reserved matters.	Continue to challenge the UKG and liaise with other devolved administrations on legislation with high cross boarder impacts.
Work collaboratively with national agencies and key partners across Scotland to develop and test amendments to legislation on devolved matters.	Initial consultations with policy felt that existing legislation was robust enough to deliver required flexibilities, however upon challenging by Project Team – SG will now be taking forward three clauses for inclusion: School/College Closures, Indemnification of Medical Professionals, and mental health. Continued working with policy areas and 'arm's length' engagement with affected agencies/stakeholders to deliver legislative changes. (No external engagement undertaken yet)
Deliver legislative changes as quickly as possible / ensure legislation is readily available for introduction if required	Contributed, and at times led, the discussion to agree procedures required to timeously introduce legislation in UK / Scottish Parliaments. Draft UK guidance currently being considered. (There are some outstanding issues / concerns yet to be fully addressed by UKG)
Health and Social Care	
Aims and Objectives	What has been achieved / delivered
Enhancing national and local response to provide appropriate healthcare capability during a severe pandemic, with regard to secondary care and primary care and incorporating community healthcare	NHS England developed surge document for internal government use during a severe pandemic. This will be retained by the 4 Nations as one basis for response at the time of a pandemic.
Developing options for response in adult social care sector and in community health care during a serious flu pandemic and better understanding impact on adult social care system.	4 Nations working group oversaw development of a paper on potential options and issues for response in adult social care and community health. DHSC, who led the development, have not confirmed how the content can be disseminated/utilised by the 4 Nations and it is