

Pandemic Flu Readiness Board

Work programme forward look – second half of year 2

Introduction:

1. Year 2 of the Pandemic Flu Readiness Board (PFRB) work programme is due to conclude in approximately 4 months. This paper outlines the proposed work plan and timeline for the completion of PFRB work streams.

Background:

2. In March 2018, the work programme for Year 2 of PFRB was agreed and Ministers were updated. This included the completion of a number of year 1 work streams and some additional work streams (Annex A).
3. Several year 1 work streams have continued into year 2, and progress on beginning some year two work streams have been delayed due to resourcing pressures and EU Exit work.
4. Nonetheless, it is important that the UK continues to improve preparedness for key risks, including Pandemic Flu. Additionally it is important that the Board meets our commitments to NSC (THRC).

Completed/Mainstreamed work streams

5. Work stream 1: Surge and Triage
The CMO briefing paper has been finalised and agreed. NHS England are working to incorporate this into their service facing guidance.
NOTE: the Devolved Administrations continue to work on this work stream.
6. Work stream 4: Sector Resilience
All departments have completed their statements of preparedness. For Critical National Infrastructure (CNI), CCS are looking to incorporate this into quarterly reporting. For non-CNI sectors, work is underway to mainstream the work into departments. Business engagement continues.

Proposed work programme

7. Whilst it is important to continue to develop our preparedness for pandemic flu, a realistic approach has been taken to decide priorities and timelines for the next 6 months.
8. PFRB will continue to meet every 6 -8 weeks until the key outputs have been delivered. This will then be reviewed in March 2019.
9. The following work streams have been identified as a priority to complete in the upcoming months:

Work stream	Lead Dept.	Current status	Aim	Timeline
WS5 – Draft Pandemic Flu Bill	DHSC / CCS	Majority of UK Gov clauses being completed by Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. MoJ and DfE two outstanding depts. DAs are still completing policy and legal instructions.	All UK Gov. clauses complete, and stitched together. Relevant supporting documentation complete. DA contributions to be built in where possible, if completed in time.	Mid-December 2018
WS3 – Excess Deaths	CCS	Final draft complete. Going for 2-week stakeholder review in mid-November.	The final guidance agreed with Wales and cleared by Ministers.	End of February 2019
WS2 – Community Care	DHSC	Plan to augment Adult Social and Community Care during a pandemic agreed by Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Chief Scientific Advisor and Chief Nursing Officer.	Community Care incorporated into WS1 (healthcare surge and triage) service facing guidance.	End of March 2019
WS 5 – Moral and Ethical	DHSC / MHCLG	Draft Terms of Reference awaiting approval from PFRB and DCMO before going for clearance.	Membership and Terms of reference approved by CMO and Ministers. (Timing of initial meeting dependant on EU Exit work).	End of February 2019
Year 2 - 2011 Strategy Refresh	DHSC	Scope drafted; to be agreed by PFRB in November.	Final draft of strategy completed. (4 Nation clearance dependent on EU exit work).	End of March 2019

Work stream to delay / pause

10. A small number of work streams will need to be paused whilst resources focus on completing the above priorities. This will be reviewed in March 2019.

These are:

- a. WS 5 - Ministerial clearance of the Four Nations Public Health Communications Strategy: the strategy has been revised and agreed by 4 CMOs and DA partners. As an internal-only document it is not

considered critical that this receives Ministerial clearance before March 2019.

- b. Year 2 - Cross-Government communications messages: DHSC and CCS Comms were to commission and coordinate public messages from OGDs. This work has not begun.
- c. Year 2 - Pandemic Flu Resilience Standard: The final draft of the Pandemic Flu resilience Standard is currently out for consultation with LRFs. Dependant on the response to the consultation, publication may be paused.
- d. Year 2 - Public facing guidance reconfiguration: An outline of the proposed restructure for is being presented at this meeting. Dependant on CCS resource, the technical reconfiguration and uploading to Resilience Direct may need to be paused until testing of the Resilience Direct system is complete.
- e. Business Checklist communication: The draft checklist has been produced. Work on sharing this with businesses has been paused, recognising other key communications about risks and contingency planning currently ongoing.

Questions for the Board:

1. Are there any other pandemic flu work streams your Department is working on currently, not listed above?
2. Do you agree with the proposed work plan for the next 6 months?
3. What do you need from the Board to ensure that the preparedness in your Department for pandemic flu does not fall away?
4. What are the Devolved Administrations aiming to complete by the end of year 2?