

Message

From: Beattie, Carol [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E7915090279E4917B3041A3A2971899D-CAROL BEATTIE 2342]
Sent: 03/02/2020 09:59:59
To: McBride, Michael [michael.mcbride@health-ni.gov.uk]
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Michael

Please see below some thoughts re response to corona virus

1. This will very quickly move from HP response to service response.
2. Based on experience from swine flu (which is consistent with RWCS, attached) and using data from England – see link below - NI might have 15 - 20,000 cases over 6 months (peak more than 1000 per week). I haven't seen any modelling data but see link below from NY Times also consistent with RWCS .
3. HSCB and PHA have less capacity and less resilience than in 2009 . To my knowledge at most 2 senior people in HSCB and PHA were involved with swine flu and that was not a lead role. High level of interim appointments at director level (and below) with several more senior staff leaving in next 2 months. Arguably HSCNI also has less capacity and resilience.
4. Swine flu response was hugely challenging and there were lessons to be learned about mobilising more people to support the response. The Director of HR indicated afterwards that he had health and safety concerns about the number of hours that people who led the response were required to work.

You may wish to give consideration to:

1. DoH service policy leads working alongside HSCB to coordinate HSC response (part of HSCB/PHA Joint response group) .
2. A couple of people from DoH (service policy and emergency response at least) visiting Scotland in next few days, if Scots would agree, to see what they are doing. (Scotland because it is the jurisdiction most like NI, remembering that their Boards are the provider organisations).

I hope this is helpful. Happy to discuss.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/world/asia/china-coronavirus-contain.html>

<https://www.nhs.uk/news/cancer/swine-flu-deaths-examined/>

Regards, Carol

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