

Briefing for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The changing world of Emergency Planning

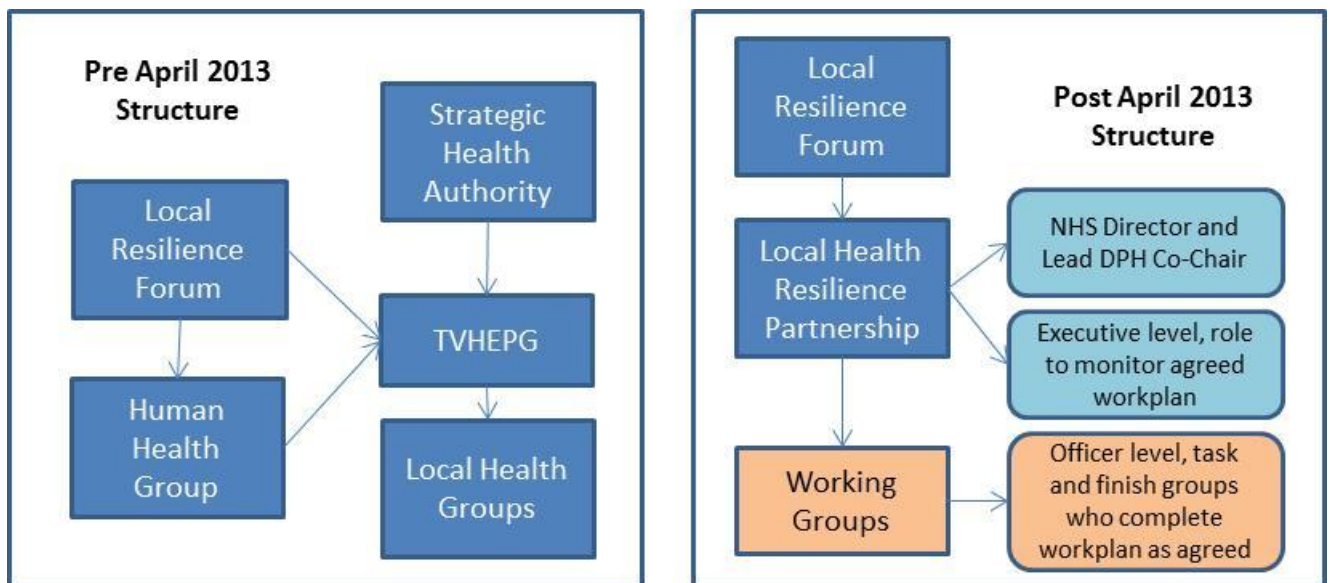
Background

There is now guidance for Emergency Planning Resilience and Response (EPRR) clearly stating the responsibilities for the three lead Directors (one from NHS England, one from Public Health England and a representative Director of Public Health).

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/08/epr-arrangements/>

Moving from the old system to the new system

The changes to the Health system have meant that emergency planning across Health has changed in terms of structure, and, the who does what. The “what we do”, has however, remained the same. We have moved from the left hand structure to the right hand structure



(TVHEPG = Thames Valley Health Emergency Planning Group)

What each group does?

Local resilience forums (LRFs) are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and others. These agencies are front line Responders. All organisations within Local Resilience Forum have a responsibility to co-operate with each other, sharing relevant information. The geographical area the forums cover is based on police areas, in our case, Thames Valley Police Authority area.

Local Resilience Forums are also supported by other organisations, such as the Highways Agency and public utility companies. They work with other partners in the military and voluntary sectors who provide a valuable contribution to the emergency planning agenda.

The aim is to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies. They work to identify potential risks and produce emergency plans to either prevent or mitigate the impact of any incident on their local communities.

The Local Health Resilience Partnership

The Local Health Resilience Partnership replaced the Human Health Group, this has been in shadow from January 2013. It aims to:

- Bring together all health responders so that they can co-ordinate, plan and carry out specific joint work.
- The chairs will be the point of contact for Local Resilience Forum (LRF).
- Co-chaired by an NHS England Director and the Lead DPH (Oxfordshire), it will link the Local Resilience Forum, NHS England and Public Health England Centres. This will enable us to assess and provide assurance about specific incidents and emergencies.
- The Lead DPH will link back to the appropriate Local Authority and other DPH's.
- The core membership of the LHRP includes NHS England, Lead Director of Public Health (**co-chair**), Ambulance Service Lead, Public Health England Centre EPRR Lead.
- Other members may be agreed locally,
- The Local Health Resilience Partnership and Local Resilience Forum are coterminous; and will develop a three year strategy with an annual work plan. This is currently under development.

There is a legal requirement for all Health organisations to participate, this includes all Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The NHS side of the LHRP will

- Ensure the local roll-out of LHRPs, coordinating with PHE and local government partners.
- Ensure the NHS has integrated plans for emergencies in place across the local area.
- Develop joint emergency "health" plans with PHE and local authorities, through the LHRP.
- Ensure that plans for Emergency Planning are in place from April 2013
- Provide the NHS co-chair of the LHRP who will also represent the NHS on the LRF.
- Have the capability to lead the NHS response to an emergency at a local level.
- Ensure a 24/7 on-call roster for NHS emergency response in the local area, comprising staff with the appropriate competences and authority to coordinate the health sector response to an emergency.
- Determine, in the light of the impact on NHS resources and with advice from the Director of Public Health, at what point the lead role in response to an incident or emergency will transfer, if required, from police to the NHS.

The Lead Director of Public Health will

- Monitoring the NHS plans to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Developing joint emergency "public health" plans (STAC) across all LA's, with PHE and NHS England, through the LHRP.
- Ensure the NHS organisations are resilient to manage emergencies that cause increase demand or disruption to patient services.
- Co-chair of the LHRP.
- Having the capability to support the NHS response to an emergency at a local level until the NHS LAT lead can take over
- Ensuring a 24/7 on-call roster for Public Health emergency response across all LA in the local area, comprising of staff with the appropriate competences and authority to coordinate the Public health response.
- A first point for dispute resolution between LHRP members should they arise;

The DPH's role in Local Authorities

- All DPH's will provide leadership for Public Health system within their local authority
- All DPH's will ensure that there are plans in place to protect their local population and escalate concerns as appropriate, this is in part the mandatory responsibility to have protection plans which protect their local population.

- Work with the Lead DPH to ensure effective communication between themselves, the Local Authority they represent and ultimately LHRF/LRF and PHE.
- Provide support to the development of LHRP Public Health plans (STAC Plans) and contribute to the 24/7 on call rota

Where are we now

- The Lead DPH has been agreed with all other Thames Valley Local Authorities
- The group has met several times in shadow form and has now agreed a slightly wider membership which includes a representative from Clinical Commissioning Groups and a representative from NHS provider trusts across Thames Valley.
- Terms of reference and Concepts of Operations have been agreed for the group
- A three year strategy is being developed
- An interim Public Health England Centre Director has been appointed

Whilst these are early days, the systems remain in place to deal with emergencies as and when they arise. The Local Health Resilience Forum will bring strength of high level commitment and leadership to the process.

Jonathan McWilliam
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Angela Baker