

OSC – MONDAY 9TH MAY 2011

ITEM 14 – NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Following the creation of the North Central London cluster, the winding down of NHS Haringey and the redistribution of responsibilities, is Mr Crompton aware of any discussions with our NHS partners about our joint ability to respond to serious incidents (flood, fuel crisis, evacuation, outbreaks of disease, terrorism etc.) that might occur in the borough and/or on our shared borders?

The transition from 5 Primary Care Trusts to one NHS North Central London Cluster required a change in the way emergency planning is managed. The 'Gold' command responsibilities for healthcare response sit with the Cluster who have taken on delegated responsibility from the PCTs .

The Council has been in close consultation with NHS partners throughout the transition to new arrangements to ensure that the multi-agency response to major incidents can be assured.

This matter was discussed at North Central London Resilience Forum on 24th March. Meetings were held regularly between the Health Emergency Planning Officer for NHS Haringey, and the Council's Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team. Ongoing joint partnership work at the borough will continue through the Haringey Emergency Planning Partnership.

The Council's Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team reports to the Joint Director of Public Health. This reflects the importance attached to maintaining a close working relationship with our NHS partners on resilience matters.

NHS North Central London provided strong assurance to Haringey Council that robust systems are in place to plan and respond to any emergencies efficiently and with appropriate resources.

Is he able to give us an assurance that the appropriate resources and personal would be on hand to mount an appropriate response and that the provisions in the Emergency Management Manual are realistic, timely, deliverable and reflect North Central London's abilities and access to resources?

Arrangements are in place for the on-call rota for senior managers at the NHS North Central London Cluster to mobilise healthcare response including local primary care. The focus of the reorganisation is to reduce support function costs within NHS Trusts. The frontline resources and expertise needed to respond to a major incident remain in place and available.

It is important to stress that the major components to the health response to a major incident is provided by the London Ambulance Service and acute trusts, and these are not affected at all by the creation of NHS NCL Cluster.