The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

Meeting:	Board of Directors (in Public)		
Meeting Date:	2 February 2021	**Agenda item:**	21
Report Title:	Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Annual Assurance		
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Executive Sponsor:	Denise Smith, Chief Operating Officer		

Implications					
Link to key strategic objectives *[highlight which KSO(s) this recommendation aims to support]*					
KSO1	KSO2	KSO3	KSO4	KSO5	KSO6
Safe and compassionate care	*Modernise hospital and estate*	*Staff engagement*	*Partnership working, clinical and financial sustainability*	*Healthy lives staff and patients*	*Investing in our staff*

Board assurance framework		
Significant risk register		
	Y/N	If Yes state impact/ implications and mitigation
Quality	Y	
Legal and regulatory		
Financial		

Assurance route					
Previously considered by:	Annual update to Trust Board				
Executive summary					
Action required: *[highlight **one** only]*	Approval	**Information**	Discussion	Assurance	Review
Purpose of the report:	This paper provides an update on the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Annual Assurance process for 2020/21.				
Summary of Key issues:	In August 2020, NHS England and NHS Improvement wrote to NHS Accountable Emergency Officers to outline the assurance process for 2020/21. This letter recognised that the standard detailed process would be excessive while the NHS prepared for potential further waves of COVID-19, the letter set out the amended process for 2020/21; this focussed on three areas:				

	1. Progress made by organisations that were reported as partially or non-compliant in the 2019/20 process 2. The process of capturing and embedding the learning from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic 3. Inclusion of progress and learning in winter planning preparations
Recommendation:	The Board of Directors is asked to note the report.
Acronyms	EPRR - Emergency Planning Resilience and Response

1. Introduction

This paper provides an update on the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Annual Assurance process for 2020/21.

2. Background

As part of the NHS England Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Framework, providers of NHS funded services must show they can effectively respond to major, critical and business continuity incidents whilst maintaining services to patients.

NHS England has an annual statutory requirement to formally assure its own and the NHS in England's readiness to respond to emergencies. To do this, NHS England and NHS Improvement asks commissioners and providers of NHS funded care to complete an EPRR annual assurance process. This process incorporates four stages:

(i) Organisational self-assessment against NHS Core Standards for EPRR
(ii) Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) confirm and challenge
(iii) NHS England and NHS Improvement regional EPRR confirm and challenge
(iv) NHS England and NHS Improvement national EPRR confirm and challenge

3. NHS Core standards for EPRR

The NHS Core Standards for EPRR are the minimum requirements providers of NHS funded services must meet. These core standards are the basis of the EPRR annual assurance process and providers of NHS funded services must assure themselves against the core standards; these cover ten domains:

(i) Governance
(ii) Duty to assess risk
(iii) Duty to maintain plans
(iv) Command and control
(v) Training and exercising
(vi) Response
(vii) Warning and informing
(viii) Cooperation
(ix) Business continuity
(x) Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN)

4. Annual assurance process 2020/21

In August 2020, NHS England and NHS Improvement wrote to NHS Accountable Emergency Officers to outline the assurance process for 2020/21. This letter acknowledged that *'the events of 2020 have tested all NHS organisation plans to a degree above and beyond that routinely achievable through exercises or assurance processes.*' Recognising that the standard detailed process would be excessive while the NHS prepared for potential further waves of COVID-19, the letter set out the amended process for 2020/21; this focussed on three areas:

(i) Progress made by organisations that were reported as partially or non-compliant in the 2019/20 process

(ii) The process of capturing and embedding the learning from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic
(iii) Inclusion of progress and learning in winter planning preparations

The Trusts response to each of these focus areas is detailed below.

4.1 Progress made by organisations that were reported as partially or non-compliant in the 2019/20 process

The Trust received a rating of 'partial assurance' in 2019/20 with action required in the following areas:

- The availability of 24 PRPS suits. The Trust currently has 12 suits; Respirex are the sole provider to the NHS and there is currently a supply shortage. Therefore, national distribution is currently ensuring all Trusts have a minimum of 12 suits.
- The Trust has a process for internal audit of Business Continuity, and outcomes are included in the report to the Board. The last internal audit was carried out in 2011 and is include in the programme for 2019/20.

These actions have been addressed as follows:

- NHS England and NHS Improvement has confirmed that the Trust is compliant as there are 12 suits available, in line with national distribution.
- An internal audit of the Trust's Emergency Planning, Resilience and Response arrangements was undertaken in February 2020 and the actions arising from this are monitored through the Trust Audit Committee.

4.2 The process of capturing and embedding the learning from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic

The World Health Organisation was informed of a new coronavirus circulating in the Wuhan District of China in late December 2019. The first reported case in the UK was on 31 January 2020. Phase 1 and 2 of the NHS response to the Pandemic ran until 31 July 2020. From July – September the Trust conducted a review of Phase 1 and 2 to capture:

- What went well?
- What could have gone better?
- Recommendations for Phase 3

4.3 Inclusion of progress and learning in winter planning preparations

The Trust has reviewed its Pandemic Flu Plan and, in line with other Trusts, has developed a Pandemic Respiratory Plan. This plan incorporates the learning from the COVID-19 pandemic and most recent pandemic national guidance. The Emergency Planning, Resilience and Response Forum will receive and approve the final revised plan. In addition, the Trust incorporated lessons learned from the first two phases of the COVID-19 pandemic into the winter planning preparations for winter 2020/21.

5. Recommendations

The Board of Directors is asked to note the report.