The Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS
King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:	REPORT FOR:		IMPACT ON BUSINESS:		
Clare Badenhorst	Decision		High	Med	Low
	Discussion			√	
	Information	✓			
LEAD MANAGER:	**REPORT TYPE:**		**BAF REFERENCES & RAG:**		
David Coe	Strategic				
	Operational	✓			
	Governance	✓	**RELATED WORK: (PREVIOUS PAPERS TO COMMITTEE)**		
PEER ASSIST:	**PEER REVIEW:**				
CQC Domain: (safe, caring, effective, responsive, well-led)	Well-led, Safe, Effective				

Meeting Date: **26 January 2016**

Report Title: **EPRR Assurance**

PURPOSE:

This paper sets out the Trust's response in terms of EPRR assurance given in respect of Dame Barbara Hakin's letter dated 9 December 2015, received 29 December 2015

SUMMARY:

This paper briefs the Management Board regarding the Trust's position against the request by Dame Barbara Hakin seeking additional assurance that the NHS is able to respond to a major incident following the tragic events in Paris in November 2015.

Interim assurance has been accepted following the assessment by NHS England of the Trust being compliant against the core standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response subsequently signed off by Executive Board August 2015.

A review of our current position is required in order to provide assurance to NHS England and the Department of Health that robust arrangements are established with respect to four specific requests:

- Cascade systems have been tested
- Access and egress to the hospital site
- Significant increase in critical care capacity
- Specialist advice for significant casualties with ballistic/blast injury

RISK ASSESSMENT (CROSS-REFERENCE WITH RISK REGISTER WHERE APPROPRIATE):

Strategic / External	Operational/ Organisational	Financial	Clinical	Legal/ Regulatory	Reputational / Patient Experience
✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

RECOMMENDATION/S:

The Board is requested to approve this assurance statement

Introduction

This paper briefs the Management Board regarding the Trust's position against the request by Dame Barbara Hakin seeking additional assurance that the NHS is able to respond to a major incident following the tragic events in Paris in November 2015.

Interim assurance has been accepted following the assessment by NHS England of the Trust being compliant against the core standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response subsequently signed off by Executive Board August 2015.

A review of our current position is required in order to provide assurance to NHS England and the Department of Health that robust arrangements are established with respect to four specific requests:

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Report

NHS England publishes the core standards each year. For the year 2015-16 there was also a focus on both Pandemic Flu planning and Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear capability by organisations. The Trust was assessed by NHS England as being compliant.

During December 2015 following the events in Paris, Dame Barbara Hakin issued a letter seeking further assurance with regard to the four areas identified above. This report intends to update the Management Board as to our position against each point:

- *You have reviewed and tested your cascade systems to ensure they can activate support from all staff groups, including doctors in training posts, in a timely manner including in the event of a loss of the primary communications system*

The Trust is required to test its cascade callout twice yearly. In 2015 these tests took place in April, May and July as an exercise, and in January 2016 in response to Business Continuity Incident. Following each test a report was written and actions taken.

However; it has been identified on occasions that the current callout cascade is unable to be received by our Bleeps but plans are in place to mitigate this

- *You have arrangements in place to ensure that staff can still gain access to sites in circumstances where there may be disruption to the transport infrastructure, including public transport where appropriate in an emergency*

This is considered a low risk. In past incidents where public transport has not been reliable or available, staff have presented for work. Staff have previously also stayed on site overnight. There are multi-agency plans in place from the Local Resilience Forum in terms of the local 4x4 service which was tested real-time during the winter of 2012. This policy has been updated and was exercised on 14 January 2016. We have mapped our staff and would expect all those living in the PE30 area to attend.

- *Plans are in place to significantly increase critical care capacity and capability over a protracted period of time in response to an incident, including where patients may need to be supported for a period of time prior to transfer to definitive care*

The Trust Pandemic Flu plan outlines the approach to be taken should additional critical care capacity be required. In addition to that, the urgent care network has a regional and national plan around capacity.

- *You have given due consideration as to how the Trust can gain specialist advice in relation to the management of a significant number of patients with traumatic blast and ballistic injuries.*

There are systems in place to acquire advice for these types of injuries through the urgent and emergency care networks.

The Trust issued a stay safe communication from the Counter Terrorism Agency on 14 December and again on 11 January 2016 regarding a terrorist threat which would result in this type of injury. The Local Security Management Specialist and the Trust lead for Emergency Planning work in co-operation with the local Counter Terrorism Officer in planning our local response to types of security incidents on site.

The Trust is due to take part in a multi-agency exercise at RAF Marham on 29 May 2016. This exercise will involve approximately 180 casualties including children with blast and burn injuries. This will test both the regional and national plans for hospital control rooms, lines of communication, command and control and mutual aid.

Recommendation

The Management Board is requested to approve this assurance statement