



 GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales	Name of Meeting Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee Date of Meeting 21 February 2024 Agenda item: 3.6
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Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response (EPRR) Welsh Government Emergency Planning Report for 2023

Executive lead:	Professor Fu-Meng Khaw, National Director of Health Protection and Screening Services, Executive Medical Director
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Approval/Scrutiny route:	Public Health Wales Business Executive Team – 07/02/24 Health Protection & Screening Services Directorate Management Team Public Health Wales Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Group
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Purpose
The purpose of this paper is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Provide assurance to the Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee on the activities undertaken by the organisation to discharge its duties under the Civil Contingencies Act [2004].b. Inform the Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee of the Health Emergency Planning Annual Report to Welsh Government (to be submitted when requested), provide assurance in relation to the organisation's level of emergency preparedness, and obtain approval for its submission.

Recommendation:				
APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take assurance in relation to the organisation's compliance with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act [2004] and the NHS Wales Emergency Planning Core Guidance [2015]. 				
<p>Link to Public Health Wales <u>Strategic Plan</u></p> <p>Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities and well-being objectives.</p> <p>This report contributes to the following:</p>				
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective		5 - Protecting the public from infection and environmental threats to health		

Summary impact analysis	
Equality and Health Impact Assessment	An Equality or Health Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.
Risk and Assurance	The National Security Risk Assessment is published by the Cabinet Office and informs all emergency planning and business continuity work.
Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act	This report and EPRR work plan ensures compliance with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and supporting guidance.
Financial implications	There are no financial implications.
People implications	There are no people implications

1. Purpose / Situation

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee of the Health Emergency Planning Annual Report to Welsh Government and provide assurance in relation to the organisation's level of emergency preparedness.

Usually, Welsh Government would issue the template between Christmas and New Year and request submission by the end of January. To date, Welsh government has postponed issuing the 2023 version, with potential for a request to be made in April 2024.

It should be noted that year on year there is minimal change to the format/questions. Therefore, in order to continue providing internal assurance; the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response (EPRR) team have completed the 'return', based on the 2022 template. Refer to appendix A.

2. Background

As a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act [2004], Public Health Wales is required to undertake the following civil protection duties:

- 1.** Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning.
- 2.** Put in place emergency plans.
- 3.** Put in place business continuity management arrangements.
- 4.** Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency.
- 5.** Share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination.
- 6.** Cooperate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency.

The Health Emergency Planning Annual Report seeks to assure Welsh Government that NHS Wales is fulfilling the above civil protection duties as well as requirements set out in the NHS Wales Emergency Planning Core Guidance [2015].

As noted in the Health Emergency Planning Annual Report, version three of the Public Health Wales Emergency Response Plan was approved in a private session of the Public Health Wales Board on 25th May 2023.

It describes the organisation's roles and responsibilities in response to an emergency or major incident, as well as providing a framework for its activation and deactivation arrangements, command and control structures, and recovery arrangements.

NB. Throughout quarters three and four of 2022/23, a comprehensive review of the document was undertaken to ensure that Public Health Wales continues to meet its statutory obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) in maintaining an Emergency Response Plan which is fit for purpose.

The review considered the incorporation of appropriate lessons identified from the Public Health Wales response to COVID. It also drew upon the valuable experiences of internal and external stakeholders across Wales and the UK as part of the process.

3. Assessment

The Health Emergency Planning Annual Report is used for year-on-year comparisons of preparedness to respond to an emergency and manage recovery against the requirements set out in the NHS Wales Emergency Planning Core Guidance [2015].

All NHS Health Boards and Trusts in Wales are required to submit the Health Emergency Planning Annual Report to Welsh Government.

4. Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The PHW Emergency Response Plan has been developed in line with the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the five ways of working.

Under schedule 1 of the CCA, PHW is a Category 1 Responder. The Act places several civil protection duties on the organisation in respect of risk assessment, emergency plans, business continuity, warning and informing, sharing of information and cooperation with local responders.

Furthermore, the plan adopts an all-hazards approach, helping to ensure that the organisational response is adaptable to a wide range of scenarios. It details all phases of response and version three incorporates clear processes to support rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating our communities.

5. Recommendations

The Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee is asked to:

- Take **assurance** in relation to the organisation's compliance with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act [2004] and the NHS Wales Emergency Planning Core Guidance [2015].