

NHS England Assurance Return

Trust Name: Surrey & Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust

EPRR Accountable Executive officer: COO Angela Stevenson

EPRR Lead: Hazel Glead

Date: 23.12.2015

Part 1:

Assurance	Statement of assurance
<p>You have reviewed and tested your internal cascade systems to ensure that you can activate support from all staff groups, including doctors in training posts, in a timely manner including in the event of a loss the primary communications system;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A test of the emergency cascade was conducted by switchboard on Friday the 11th December 2015, it is reported that an adequate number of consultants and doctors responding. New equipment is in place to enable a relocation of the switchboard in the event of a loss of premises. If primary communications are lost, radios are available to enable co-ordination across the Trust. Clinical areas have reviewed their staff contact lists to ensure these are both complete and current.
<p>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;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust has arrangements within the Adverse Weather which could be used in part to support transport of staff. • The trust is a prioritised user of a local taxi company with agreement to release taxis for any identified need ahead of other customers. • A large number of staff do utilise public transport to travel to the site any disruption would have an impact on normal travel arrangements. Plans to help manage this eventuality are being developed.

<p>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 for definitive care;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MI plan allows for us to upgrade some of our beds temporarily whilst waiting to transfer out. However in the event of the system being overwhelmed, our Pandemic flu plan has a graded response from using all our Level 2 & 3 beds for Level 3 patients to expanding into the theatre suite using Recovery and theatres if we are unable to transfer out.
<p>The Trust has given due consideration as to how specialist advice can be gained in relation to the management of a significant number of patients with traumatic blast and ballistic injuries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a network of experienced clinical staff that has this specialist advice and can be contacted if needed. Arrangements for a seminar are being made to deliver training/briefing to key staff. The target to deliver this is by the end of April 2016.
<p>Date of public Board meeting to present statement of readiness:</p>	<p>28th January 2016</p>