

## BOARD MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 17 January 2023	<b>Agenda item:</b> 15
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<b>Title of Paper:</b> 2022/23 Emergency Planning Resilience and Response (EPRR) Assurance Update & Statement of Compliance
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<b>Paper is for:</b> (Please ✓)	<b>Discussion</b>		<b>Decision</b>	✓	<b>Information</b>	✓
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<b>Executive Summary</b>
<p>This report details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ICB's role in self-assurance against the EPRR Core Standards.</li> <li>The processes for reviewing ICB partner organisations' (Acute, Mental Health, Community and Ambulance Trusts) progress on their work regarding the EPRR Core Standards.</li> <li>Appendix A is the ICB's 2022/23 Statement of Compliance; this is a short document stating the ICB's progress against the 47 NHS England Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response arrangements.</li> </ul>

<b>Action Required</b>
<p>The Board is asked to: <b>Note</b> the main report and <b>Ratify</b> the Statement of Compliance (Appendix A)</p>

<b>Author:</b> Adam Williams, Emergency Planning Officer (EPRR)
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<b>Executive Lead/Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Matthew Tait, Interim Chief Delivery Officer and Accountable Emergency Officer
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<b>Date of Paper:</b> 06 January 2023
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<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>
Not applicable

## 2022/23 EPRR Assurance Update & Statement of Compliance

### Introduction

1. This document details the ICB's response to the NHS England 2022/23 EPRR Assurance Process to meet the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Health and Care Act 2022, and NHS Emergency Planning Guidance 2005.

### Background

2. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 outlines a single framework for civil protection in the UK. Part 1 of the Act establishes a clear set of roles and responsibilities for those involved in emergency preparation and response at a local level. The Act divides local responders into two categories, imposing a different set of duties on each category.
3. Category 1 responders are those organisations at the core of the response to most emergencies and are subject to the full set of civil protection duties.
4. Category 2 responders have a lesser set of duties and are required to operate and share relevant information with other Category 1 and 2 responders.
5. With the introduction of the Health and Care Act 2022, this year's assurance process reflects the establishment of ICBs as Category 1 responders and their local NHS leadership role. This includes the requirement to undertake a self-assessment against the core standards, and to lead the NHS locally to agree the process to gain confidence of organisational ratings.
6. Category 1 responders and are subject to the full set of civil protection duties including:
  - Risk assessment
  - Co-operation
  - Business Continuity Management
  - Emergency Planning
  - Warning and informing
  - Sharing information
7. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a legal duty on responders to undertake risk assessments and publish a Community Risk Register. BOB ICB is a participating member of the Thames Valley Local Resilience forum that undertakes this activity.

### 2022/23 Assurance Process

8. A letter from NHS England dated 29 July 2022 informed all NHS organisations of the assurance process for 2022/23.
9. All NHS organisations are required to undertake a self-assessment against several EPRR 'core standards' that were included with the letter.
10. Trusts' self-assessments are then reviewed with the ICB which evaluates/challenges/asks for evidence to ensure adherence to the core standard.

These assessments (along with the ICB's own self-assessment) are submitted to the Thames Valley Local Health Resilience Partnership Executive for final scrutiny and sign-off ahead of submission to NHS England.

11. The previous assurance process in 2021/22 was assessed against a reduced set of core standards due to the COVID-19 Pandemic which was classified as an on-going incident.
12. The NHS England letter stated an intention to aim for a full EPRR assurance process with a return to many of the previous mechanisms.

### Organisational Updates from 2022/23 Assurance Process

13. Prior to submission to NHS England in November all the organisations within BOB ICB's assurance remit (listed below) were either **fully** (100%) or **substantially** (89-98%) compliant with the EPRR core standards. This is a 'snapshot in time' and all organisations continue to progress against the core standards with the aim to be fully compliant by the end of March 2023.
14. Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West ICB - **substantially compliant**  
 Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust - **substantially compliant**  
 Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust - **substantially compliant**  
 Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust - **fully compliant**  
 Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - **substantially compliant**  
 Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust - **substantially compliant**  
 South Central Ambulance Service - **substantially compliant**
15. Quarterly meetings with providers take place and updates/actions on the outstanding core standards are discussed and were noted as follows in November prior to submission to NHS England:

Core Standard	Org.	Plan / Update / Comments
#5 EPRR Resource	BOB ICB	EPRR Team currently 1 WTE supported by senior team. Head of EPRR appointed and starting in January. Proposal to strengthen the EPRR resource function will be included within the ICB consultation process.
#12 Infectious Disease	RBFT	Awaiting sign off of Outbreak Policy.
#16 Evacuation & Shelter	RBFT	Significant progress has been made. However, with a change of contractor from 1 December plans will require additional review and testing.
#17 Lockdown		
#45 Business Continuity Management Systems	BHFT	Main area of focus for the EPRR Team for remainder of the year.
#46 BIA Assessment	BOB ICB	Due to EPRR team resourcing (see #5) and formation/restructure of ICB relationships with separate directorates/teams not yet fully established.
#48 Business Continuity Testing & Exercising	BOB ICB	Mandated training requirements met – however, due to EPRR team resourcing (see #5) more in depth and localised testing not yet taken place.

#49 Data Security	BOB ICB	Awaiting formal certification of compliance with the Data Protection and Security Toolkit.
	BHT	
	OUH	
	SCAS	
#52 BCMS Continuous Improvement Process	BOB ICB	Plans frequently used for live events/incidents, however due to EPRR team resourcing (see #5) a fully formed continuous programme is not yet in place.
#59 CBRN Equipment & Supplies	BHFT	A piece of equipment is on order. Training will take place once received.
#65 CBRN Training Programme		
#67 CBRN Staff Training Decontamination		
	OUH	Ongoing due to staff turnover. Additional training sessions for front of house and security staff planned.

### Partnership Working/ Good Practice Identified

16. Strong relationships at both ICS and place level. The quarterly assurance meeting process provides a structured 'safe space' for honest conversations. There is flexibility in approaches of quarterly meetings, some prefer 1:1 some 'place based'.
17. The ICB Emergency Planning Officer attends a peer review group across the Southeast region with monthly meetings. There is also a dedicated Teams channel to encourage joined up working across the Southeast region. A cross organisational Teams channel has also been set up to mirror this approach at an ICS level.
18. Links with Frimley ICB and their unique position across three different LHRPs and LRFs provides intel, sharing good practice and reduces duplication.
19. Future training needs are to be worked collaboratively by rolling out the previously used Berkshire West CCG model (to be updated to include aspects of new NHS England Health Commander Training).

### Challenges and Areas of Concern

20. The following challenges and areas of concern have been discussed, noted and escalated to NHS England through the EPRR process.
  - Information flow from NHS England National and Regional teams (use of ROC/SOC process).
  - Some national guidance is severely out of date.
  - There were no core standards relating to Cyber Security, IT outages or industrial action.
  - If the NHS England self-assessment document refers to guidance – a link to the latest/correct version should be included in that document.

## 2022 Incidents and Responses

21. It has been a busy year for incidents and responses in the NHS in 2022. Starting the year with a busy winter, the ICB and local partners have worked together to respond to many incidents including:

- Storm Eunice
- Water outages
- Ukraine refugees
- Monkey Pox
- Heatwave
- Ambulance IT outages
- Blood shortages
- Oxygen supply shortages
- Cyber ransomware – Operation Silver Puncture
- Strep A (iGAS)
- Asylum seekers
- Industrial Action
- Operation London Bridge
- Diphtheria Vaccination
- Energy Resilience

## Asks of the Board or of members present

22. The Board is asked to **Note** the main report and **Ratify** the Statement of Compliance (Annex 1).

Adam Williams  
Emergency Planning Officer  
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West ICB  
January 2023

## Annex 1

### **Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West ICB EPRR Statement of Compliance**

The NHS needs to plan for, and respond to, a wide range of incidents and emergencies that could affect health or patient care: from extreme weather conditions to an outbreak of an infectious disease or a major transport accident. The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) requires NHS organisations, and providers of NHS-funded care, to show they can deal with such incidents while maintaining services.

NHS England has published NHS core standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response arrangements. These are the minimum standards which NHS organisations and providers of NHS funded care must meet. The Accountable Emergency Officer in each organisation is responsible for making sure these standards are met.

As part of the national EPRR assurance process for **2022/23**, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West ICB has been required to assess itself against these core standards. The outcome of this self-assessment shows that against **47** of the core standards which are applicable to the organisation, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West ICB is fully compliant with **42** of these core standards

The overall rating is: **Substantially Compliant**

Matthew Tait  
Accountable Emergency Officer  
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West ICB  
January 2023