

REPORT TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON) 10 April 2019
SUBJECT:	Brexit: Update on plans for identifying and responding to short and longer term risks to health and wellbeing
BOARD SPONSOR:	<i>Rachel Flowers</i>
BOARD PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparedness to mitigate the impact of an EU exit with or without a deal, is both a national and local priority. The Health and Wellbeing Board is well placed to ensure the health and care system has identified and responded to potential risks to health and to identify opportunities for alignment. 	
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	
<i>There are no financial impacts identified in this report.</i>	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

This report recommends that the Health and Wellbeing board:

- Note the potential impacts of Brexit on health and wellbeing and the national guidance on local and national preparedness
- Provide an update on their own organisational plans to identify and mitigate the impact of Brexit on health and wellbeing
- Identify opportunities for alignment of planning across organisations.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 There remains a significant amount of uncertainty about the impact of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union on health and wellbeing locally, in both the short and longer term.
- 2.2 A 'no deal' Brexit is still a possibility and has the potential to exacerbate the impact.
- 2.3 An effective response to dealing with the impact of the EU exit on health and wellbeing requires close working between all Health and Wellbeing Board member organisations.
- 2.4 A report went to Cabinet in December 2018 outlining the action being taken by the Council to plan for Brexit.
- 2.5 The Department of Health and Social Care are supporting health and care organisations and gaining assurance of Brexit preparations.

- 2.6 This report provides a high level overview of the potential health impacts and guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care on local and national preparedness.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The EU exit has potential for significant impact on health and care organisations and the health outcomes of Croydon residents in terms of local economy, community cohesion, our health and care workforce, access to medical supplies and public health regulation. There is great uncertainty over the nature of Brexit and the timescales for the UK leaving. There is also uncertainty over the scale of the implications for health and wellbeing.

4. IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- 4.1 Much has been written about the potential negative impacts of Brexit on health and wellbeing, however, it remains uncertain which of the risks will materialise and the strength of the impact.
- 4.2 The main areas of concern identified include: health and social care staffing shortages; access to and regulation of medicines; reciprocal healthcare arrangements; commissioning and procurement law; working time directives; cross border public health legislation (e.g. tobacco control; food safety; alcohol; housing standards); health protection surveillance; civil disorder; EU grants providing regeneration and employment and economic uncertainty.
- 4.3 On the flipside, some Brexit literature has focused on the potential opportunities for improved health outcomes that Brexit offers. The Health Foundation¹ (2018) discuss the opportunity for a stronger and more holistic health in all policies approach to UK legislation on trade; air quality; nutrition for example.

5. PREPARING FOR BREXIT

- 5.1 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is leading the response to EU Exit across the health and care sector. The DHSC wrote to all Directors of Public Health and Local Authority Chief Executives in March 2019 and to all health care commissioners and providers in December 2018 to outline the arrangements being put in place to protect the public's health as part of the preparations for the EU exit including preparing for a 'no deal' scenario.
- 5.2 The Government have published an Operational Readiness guidance document² covering the actions that all health and adult social care organisations should undertake in preparation for Brexit. This documents seven areas where

¹ https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/Policies-healthy-lives_web.pdf

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/768077/eu-exit-operational-readiness-guidance.pdf

preparedness should be focused at local and national levels, these areas reflect the literature on the likely impacts of an EU exit on health:

- 1) Supply of medicines and vaccines
- 2) Supply of medical devices and clinical consumables
- 3) Supply of non-clinical consumables, goods and services
- 4) Workforce
- 5) Reciprocal healthcare
- 6) Research and clinical trials
- 7) Data sharing, processes and access

- 5.3 Local health and social care providers and commissioners are asked to assess the risks in relation to these seven areas, and in addition potential increases in service demand and any locally specific risks,
- 5.4 The DHSC have established an Operational Response Centre to lead on any disruption to health and care delivery as a result of the EU Exit. The centre will coordinate reporting and information across the health and care system and will be supported by regional and local teams who will work with the local NHS to resolve issues that may arise.
- 5.5 The DHSC have been taking action to ensure public health regulations such as tobacco control and food safety regulation will continue to operate effectively. They have also been developing contingency plans to mitigate the risk of 'no deal' on NHS Blood and Transplant.
- 5.6 NHS England have hosted regional workshops to discuss local and regional NHS preparedness and contingency in the event of a no deal EU exit.

6. LOCAL PREPARATIONS

6.1 Croydon Council

- 6.1.1 The Council outlined their response and plans for Brexit in a paper for the December 2018. The paper outlined 4 key areas of potential implications: local economy; workforce and employment; finance and procurement and Community safety and cohesion and outlines the actions being taken by the council to mitigate the risks.
- 6.1.2 The Director of Public Health is ensuring that all Brexit communications are circulated to the Chief Executives of Croydon's Health and care system.

6.2 NHS Croydon CCG

- 6.2.1 NHS England and NHS Improvement are working closely with DHSC to best prepare the NHS. **NHS Croydon CCG** alongside our partner CCGs across south west London are working locally with partners to prepare for, and manage, the risks of a no-deal exit scenario as outlined in the DHSC [EU Exit Operational Guidance](#) which outlines the actions that providers and commissioners of health and social care services should take.

- 6.2.2 The NHS England Director of Acute Care and Strategic Commander for EU Exit, Professor Keith Willett, [wrote to clinical commissioning group \(CCG\) and trust Chief Executives](#) in February outlining the operational response that NHS England and NHS Improvement are undertaking at a national and regional level in preparation. This will be based on enhancing existing command and control protocols used in emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR).
- 6.2.3 Government guidance is clear that stockpiling of medicines, devices and products is not necessary, and NHS England has put contingency plans in place to ensure the continued supply of medicines and other medical products. Therefore, neither the CCG nor local health trusts are making local stockpiles.
- 6.2.4 All organisations in south west London have reviewed staff rotas in late March and throughout April to ensure to ensure there will continue to be sufficient staff to deliver the high-quality services which the public relies following the UK's exit from the EU.
- 6.2.5 None of the organisations with whom we work have made any plans to cancel appointments or procedures for our patients.
- 6.2.6 NHS England is working closely with DHSC, patient groups and others to provide relevant information to patients and the public. Information for patients is available online from www.nhs.uk. GPs and Pharmacists are advised to refer patients to this information if they have concerns.

6.3 **Croydon Health Services**

- 6.3.1 Preparations are in line with the national operational guidance and include: establishment of local response and escalation arrangements, communication and engagement with the London region emergency preparedness resilience and response team via a daily situation report and planning against the 7 core areas in the DHSC operational guidance.

6.4 **South London and the Maudsley (SL&M)**

- 6.4.1 For **SL&M's** Brexit planning the Trust has devised and implemented a "Brexit Guidance Summary and Actions" document. This focuses around 7 core sections:

- Supply of medicines and vaccines
- Supply of medical devices and clinical consumables
- Supply of non-clinical consumables, goods and services
- Workforce
- Reciprocal Healthcare
- Clinical trials and clinical investigations
- Data Sharing, Processing and Access

- 6.4.2 **SL&M** are also:

- Ensuring the Trustwide Business continuity plan that is fully risk assessed

and tested

- Reviewing Information sharing guidance
- Reviewing Pharmacy guidance
- Reviewing ISS business continuity plans
- Reviewing NHSP business continuity plans
- Ensuring Control room readiness

6.4.3 **SL&M**, as a part of the South East London STP is planning to ensure each organisation and collectively that we are sufficiently risk assessed and prepared for the possibility of a no deal Brexit. Our COO Kris Dominy is the SL&M SRO for this.

6.4.4 For no deal planning purposes as an organisation, SL&M has:

- Planned executive and senior management leave for March & April
- Reviewed clinical and non-clinical on call rotas for March & April
- Refreshed all business continuity plans
- Nominated a one person contact for each team/service should daily sitreps be required under a no deal scenario

7 CONSULTATION

N/A

8 SERVICE INTEGRATION

N/A

9 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 At this stage, it is not possible to identify the financial impact of Member organisations of leaving the European Union. (*See cabinet report*)

Approved by: Mirella Peters, Head of HWA Finance, Croydon Council

10 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer that information provided in this report is necessary to demonstrate the Council's planning in relation to Brexit preparedness.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

11 EQUALITIES IMPACT

11.1 An equality analysis has been conducted on the potential impact of Brexit on Croydon residents and is detailed in the December 2018 Cabinet report on the council's Brexit preparations.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Appendix 1 – *Cabinet report December 2018: Council Preparations for Brexit*