

EU exit update - August
23 August 2019

Dear colleagues,

Many of you will have taken part in the recent series of webinars run by Leaf Mobbs, our Director of EU Exit Transition. These were designed to give colleagues in CCGs and trusts working on EU exit an update on the current status of NHS preparations, and to brief you on the key activities that need to be progressed locally as we prepare for leaving the EU on 31 October.

This update provides you with further information on the key activities that need to be progressed locally in advance of a series of regional EU exit workshops taking place between 4 and 19 September. Regional EU Exit teams have now issued formal invites to these sessions and online registration is underway. Please do make sure that your organisation is represented at the relevant event.

The following actions need to be progressed so that your organisation is prepared, and geared up to respond to the messages that will be shared at the regional workshops:

- Complete the mitigation of any issues identified in the previous assurance processes
- Make sure your EU Exit team is in place. This should include:
- Advising your Board that the EU exit response is being stood up for leaving the EU on 31 October
- Having an EU Exit SRO in place, with supporting EU Exit team, and full management and oversight of the organisation's Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) email for EU exit communications
- Having relevant subject matter experts available for critical areas including supply/procurement, pharmacy, logistics, estates and facilities, workforce, data
- Reinstating on-call arrangements, and ensuring on-call directors understand what is required of them and the escalation routes for problems
- Ensure your business continuity plans are up-to-date and tested, including winter and flu plans
- Make sure you are engaged with local system preparations around EU exit through Local Health Resilience Partnerships and Local Resilience Forums, and have agreed to link with partner agencies including local authority, CCG and provider colleagues to collaboratively manage and address issues.
- Re-familiarise your teams with details of the EU exit operational guidance from 21 December 2018 bearing in mind some aspects of this may have been supplemented with further information (see link below) or may be updated in the coming weeks
- Register to attend the regional EU Exit workshops in September, where you will be updated on the operational guidance and planning context, including the key changes since April.
- Revisit your organisation's contract and supplier assurance process including 'walk the floor' checks, to include smaller and/or niche local suppliers not covered by national assurance exercises (this applies to both CCGs and providers)
- Ensure you communicate with healthcare professionals and patients using the available information on the GOV.UK, NHS England and Improvement websites and NHS Choices.

Next steps

We expect to begin assuring local preparations from the end of August. This assurance process will cover similar ground as previous exercises, including your plans, systems and contingency arrangements for key areas such as operational readiness, communication, continuity of supply, workforce, clinical trials, data, finance and health demand.

Following your feedback, we are currently working with NHS Digital to make improvements to the situation reporting system and process. We expect regular situation reporting to start from 21 October, however some testing is likely to take place before this. We will confirm further details when they are available.

All information published by the DHSC – and other parts of Government - on EU Exit can be viewed here. Any information published by NHS England and NHS Improvement will be available on the NHS England web pages. Patient facing messages will continue to be published on the nhs.uk website under the appropriate section.

Thank you for your continuing support, and the work you and your teams are undertaking as we finalise our preparations in anticipation of a possible no deal. Your efforts locally to minimise the impact on patient care is appreciated.

Professor Keith Willett EU Exit Strategic Commander Medical Director for Acute Care & Emergency Preparedness

If you have any questions or concerns about local preparations please send these to your regional EU Exit lead using the regional point of contact which is England.london-euexit@nhs.net

NHS England
PO Box 16738
Redditch
B97 9PT

For further information, please contact:
England.london-euexit@nhs.net