

## **Accountable Emergency Officer – Statement on Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response (EPRR)**

NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is committed to planning for and responding to a wide range of incidents and emergencies that could affect health or patient care. These could be anything from extreme weather conditions to an infectious disease outbreak or a major transport accident or a terrorist act. This is underpinned by legislation contained in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and associated Cabinet Office Guidance, NHS Act 2006 (as amended), The NHS Constitution, NHS Standard Contract, NHSE England EPRR guidance and BS ISO 22301 Business Continuity Management System.

The CCG considers that EPRR is essential to maintain services for patients and undertake this through having the Executive Nurse as the Governing Body lead with accountability for EPRR, supported by a dedicated EPRR Practitioner. The NHS Act 2006 places a duty on service providers to appoint an individual to be responsible for discharging these duties under section 252A. This individual is known as the Accountable Emergency Officer. The AEO is also supported by the Lay Member for Governance to endorse assurance to the Board that the organisation is meeting its obligations with respect to EPRR

The Accountable Emergency Officer (AEO) and EPRR practitioner are familiar with the principles of EPRR and are competent and confident of their roles and responsibilities in planning for and responding to incidents and emergencies.

The CCG has developed and regularly reviews key policies outlining our position on Emergency Planning, Business Continuity, Training and Exercising based on risk assessment at organisational, multi-agency, regional and national level. These policies, which are available on the CCG intranet site, apply to all employees, as well as temporary and agency workers, management consultants and contractors acting for, or on behalf of, the CCG. All employees and other individuals acting for the CCG are required to familiarise themselves with the policies and comply with any amendments with immediate effect.

The CCG has developed effective, coordinated structures in place to adequately plan, prepare and rehearse the tactical and operational response arrangements with our local partners through Local Health Resilience Partnership and Local Resilience Forum.

The CCG is committed to ensuring that our organisation, and any commissioned service providers or subcontractors, have robust business continuity planning arrangements in place which are aligned to ISO 22301 or subsequent guidance which may supersede this. This requirement is contained within the formal contract agreements. This includes a framework in place to allow for access to appropriate funds in times of incident declaration based on prioritisation of critical services and identified recovery time objectives.

**Signed:** Dr Marion Andrews-Evans (Executive Nurse)    **Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**Accountable Emergency Officer**