

STAFFORDSHIRE PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLAN

All National Department of Health and Regional guidance on planning for an influenza pandemic emphasises the responsibility of Primary Care Trusts working with Health Economies and Local Authority partners to lead the local operational response in co-ordination with the local Health Protection Unit. Whilst the local response to an influenza pandemic will have issues specific to pandemic influenza, much of the response will be similar to any emergency or major incident (albeit on a bigger scale). Local flu pandemic plans sit alongside organisations' generic major incident plans (already in existence), the Staffordshire and Shropshire Strategic Health Authority Major Incident Plan and the West Midlands Regional Pandemic Flu Plan.

There are two key standards to any local response:

- Identification, diagnosis and treatment of people who become ill.
- Business Continuity and planning to minimise disruption to essential services through staff sickness as a result of influenza or carer responsibilities.

The plan is structured to reflect the World Health Organisation's pandemic phases and UK Alert Levels and within each section identifies the key strategic objectives for each partner to the plan. Operational detail will be included in documents supporting the plan, referred to in it and listed in Supporting Documents and Annexes.