

Item: 10.3

REPORT CLASSIFICATION	✓	CATEGORY OF PAPER	✓
Official	X	Proposes specific action	
Official: Sensitive Commercial		Provides assurance	X
Official: Sensitive Personal		For information only	

## BOARD

30 JANUARY 2024

### Report Title:

**NENC ICB Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) NHSE Core Standards Self-Assessment 2023-24**

### Purpose of report

To provide the ICB Board with an overview of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board's self-assessment against the NHS England EPRR core standards for 2023-24

### Key points

- NENC ICB has undertaken a self-assessment against the 2023-24 NHS England EPRR Core Standards
- An overall assurance rating has been assigned, based on the percentage of NHS Core Standards for EPRR that could be evidenced to be compliant by NENC ICB in September 2023
- NENC ICB plans to increase assurance and enhance EPRR Core Standards throughout 2024

### Risks and issues

- Review of NENC ICB Business Continuity Management to align with ICB 2.0
- Introduction of enhanced Training packages and Portfolio for On-call staff

### Assurances

- A full review of Business Continuity for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board will be completed by the end of June 2024 to take account for recent ICB 2.0 organisational change.
- The NENC ICB EPRR Team will be facilitating monthly EPRR provider meetings to ensure focused, collaborative working is in place to identify and adopt best practice across all EPRR standards.
- The NENC ICB EPRR Team will act upon a SMART workplan throughout 2024 with monthly deadlines in each domain area to ensure tangible progress can be measured against identified EPRR standards, monitored by the ICB EPRR Steering Group, to provide the required assurance for compliance.

### Recommendation/action required

- The ICB Board are asked to approve the NENC ICB EPRR Core Standards self-assessment as validated by the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) and Regional Health Resilience Partnership (RHRP)
- The ICB Board are asked to acknowledge that a workplan in place, overseen by the ICB EPRR Steering Group, to ensure rapid progress in enhancing EPRR Core Standards during 2024.

Acronyms and abbreviations explained						
EPRR – Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response LHRP- Local Health Resilience Partnership RHRP – Regional Health Resilience Partnership SCC – System Coordination Centre						
<b>Executive Committee Approval</b>	16 January 2024					
<b>Sponsor/approving executive director</b>	Jacqueline Myers, Executive Chief of Strategy and Operations					
<b>Date approved by executive director</b>	8 January 2024					
<b>Report author</b>	Tom Knox – NENC ICB Strategic Head of EPRR					
Link to ICP strategy priorities (please tick all that apply)						
Longer and Healthier Lives						✓
Fairer Outcomes for All						✓
Better Health and Care Services						✓
Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life						✓
Relevant legal/statutory issues						
Note any relevant Acts, regulations, national guidelines etc						
<b>Any potential/actual conflicts of interest associated with the paper?</b> (please tick)	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	✓	<b>N/A</b>	
If yes, please specify						
<b>Equality analysis completed</b> (please tick)	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>		<b>N/A</b>	✓
<b>If there is an expected impact on patient outcomes and/or experience, has a quality impact assessment been undertaken?</b> (please tick)	<b>Yes</b>	✓	<b>No</b>		<b>N/A</b>	
Key implications						
<b>Are additional resources required?</b>	<b>No</b>					
<b>Has there been/does there need to be appropriate clinical involvement?</b>	<b>No</b>					
<b>Has there been/does there need to be any patient and public involvement?</b>	<b>No</b>					
<b>Has there been/does there need to be partner and/or other stakeholder engagement?</b>	<b>Yes</b>					

# North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Assurance 2023-24

## 1. Introduction

1.1. The purpose of this report is to update the NENC ICB Board on the recent submission from NENC ICB in line with the NHS England EPRR core standards annual self-assessment process for 2023-24 and the arrangements to be put in place to provide future assurance.

## 2. Background

2.1. As a Category One responder under the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA 2004) the ICB have a responsibility to:

- Assess the risks of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning
- Put in place emergency plans
- Put in place business continuity management arrangements
- Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency
- Share information with other local responders to enhance coordination
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance coordination and efficiency.

The ICB work very closely with all providers to coordinate the health economy preparedness and response to any significant incident in the NENC area. ICBs are also responsible for monitoring each commissioned provider's compliance with their contractual obligations in respect of EPRR. This includes leading the annual local assurance process for the applicable core standards and responsibility for submitting a consolidated assurance report detailing assurance ratings for organisations within the NENC integrated care system (ICS).

2.2. The ICB provide advice and guidance to providers in the management and mitigation of impacts and support response governance through the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP).

2.3. During 2023 the ICB facilitated regular workshops to assess resilience requirements across the system and promoted collaborative and coordinated working in collation of submissions for the EPRR Core Standards process.

2.4. The NENC ICB undertook a self-assessment process against the NHS England EPRR core standards for 2023-24 with the submission and available evidence forwarded to NHS England in September 2023.

2.5. The NENC ICB EPRR Steering Group oversaw the assurance process and the plans, processes and procedures put in place to provide EPRR assurance for the ICB during 2023.

2.6. In September 2023 NENC ICB completed a self-assessment for EPRR core standards using the methodology and collation and evidence thresholds previously adopted for EPRR self-assessments. NENC ICB rated itself as **70%** compliant. This self-assessment was then submitted to NHS England North East and Yorkshire EPRR Team for review.

The NHS England EPRR Core Standards process changed for 2023-24. Building on a pilot held in the Midlands region in 2022, NHS England introduced an amended assurance process for all ICBs in the North East & North Cumbria, North West and Yorkshire.

**2.7.** The pilot process involved a re-basing of the EPRR Core Standards used in previous years and introduced an enhanced threshold for evidence based on similar levels of scrutiny as adopted during the Manchester Arena and Grenfell Inquiries.

**2.8.** In December 2023, after feedback from NHS England NEY, and using the revised standards and higher evidence threshold, NENC ICB was self-assessed as being non-compliant with an overall score of **49%**.

Prior to submission of core standards returns the ICB held a check and challenge session with all providers and after submission, the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) held a further check & challenge review to endorse the EPRR Core Standards self-assessments for NENC ICB and each provider before further system level challenge via the Regional Health Resilience Partnership (RHRP) and final submission to NHS England.

Organisation Name	Initial Organisation Assessment Rating	Final Organisation Rating After LHRP and RHRP Check and Challenge
County Durham and Darlington	98%	77%
Cumbria, Northumbria, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	78%	50%
Gateshead Health NHS FT	92%	77%
Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	90%	77%
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	81%	45%
North East Ambulance Service	90%	81%
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board	70%	49%
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	77%	53%
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	98%	90%
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	81%	77%
South Tyneside & Sunderland FT	90%	73%
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT	83%	52%

Following completion of this process and submissions, the ICB participated in a peer review workshop with other ICB's in the North East & Yorkshire to review the self-assessments against the core standards, to identify leading practice that could be shared collaboratively to drive improvements and inform organisational learning.

**2.9.** All ICBs in the North East and Yorkshire identified similar areas as being partially or non-compliant against the evidential thresholds set by NHSE for the standards and assessment scores were all significantly lower in 2023-24 than in previous processes.

### **3. Main Issues**

**3.1.** As per the NHS England EPRR Core Standards guidance, an overall assurance rating has been assigned based on the percentage of NHS EPRR Core Standards which the organisation has assessed itself as being fully compliant with in September 2023.

**3.2.** NENC ICB EPRR Team acknowledge that the process for 2023-24 core standards has raised the bar on evidential requirements and this will inform a specific EPRR work plan to ensure that the organisation is quickly able to progress throughout 2024 to evidence higher compliance against measured standards feeding into the EPRR Steering Group and Executive Committee.

**3.3.** To support attainment of the higher standards all regional ICBs have agreed to share all examples of fully compliant standards and the required evidence to achieve them. Monthly Provider EPRR workshops have been set-up to facilitate focused organisational learning and regular regional ICB workshops will continue to support sharing of leading practice.

**3.4.** The NHS England EPRR Core Standards are classified into ten domains. To focus work on achieving rapid improvement and collating evidence for the 2024 return, monthly workshops facilitated by the ICB have been organised for each domain. All providers will attend to share best practice and to identify evidence required to attain the standard. This will allow the ICB and Trusts to evidence monthly progress across the standards and to report the improvements via the ICB EPRR Steering Group and the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP).

1. Domain 1 – Governance – January 2024
2. Domain 2 – Duty to Risk Assess – February 2024
3. Domain 3 – Duty to maintain Plans – March 2024
4. Domain 4 – Command and Control – April 2024
5. Domain 5 – Training & Exercising – May 2024
6. Domain 6 – Response – June 2024
7. Domain 7 – Warning & Informing – June 2024
8. Domain 8 – Cooperation – July 2024
9. Domain 9 – Business Continuity Planning – July 2024
10. Domain 10 – Hazmat & CBRNe – August 2024

**3.5** The areas which have been assessed as non or partially compliant will be directly addressed at the monthly workshops and will be part of the ICB action plan detailed in the appendices attached to this paper.

**3.6** Since September 2023, the ICB EPRR Team have managed to quickly gather evidence for several previously non or partially compliant standards in the Governance, Command and Control and Response domains. The ICB also held a successful EPRR table-top exercise with multi-agency partners in December 2023 which helped attain several standards that would increase our current self-assessment rating to 62%.

**3.7** The ICB EPRR Team are confident that further quick wins are in place and with the focused monthly meetings, standards evidence will constantly evolve to demonstrate a high level of compliance.

**3.8** It is important to note that although the ICB has declared itself as being non-compliant, the organisation has rigorous and robust plans in place and has used them regularly to manage any significant incidents in line with their category 1 responsibilities.

#### **4. Incident Response Management 2023-24**

- 4.1.** Since inception in July 2022, The ICB has regularly shown an ability to respond to significant incidents and impacts. This financial year, the ICB has planned for and responded to thirteen periods of industrial action, has responded to outbreaks of monkey pox, avian influenza, scabies, meningococcal, seasonal influenza, covid, norovirus and RSV which has resulted in the need to manage clinical assessment, prescribing medication and the facilitation and mobilisation of vaccination campaigns at several sites.
- 4.2.** The ICB are also seeing an increasing number of infections in people who have come to the UK to seek asylum with outbreaks of infectious disease from within asylum accommodation settings such as short-term holding sites or initial support asylum accommodation settings, including accommodation for unaccompanied asylum seeker children.
- 4.3.** NENC ICB have reviewed the response to each incident to ensure on-going organisational learning and updated protocols resulting in all public health incidents now being reported to the SCC seven days a week between 08:00 and 20:00 to ensure a consistent and standard response across the North East and North West to requests for support UKHSA Health Protection Teams. The System Coordination Centre are tasked with liaising with relevant providers and where appropriate, Place based teams to enact the appropriate response.
- 4.4.** The SCC will also attend IMT meetings as required to inform decisions about level of NHS response and release of ICB resources.
- 4.5.** The ICB EPRR Team has also led on system responses to several supply-chain issues including Oxygen supply, test-tube availability, de-fib pad issues and medication shortages.

#### **5. Areas for Development**

**5.1.** The Core Standards process has identified a small number of areas requiring further action to move the organisation to its desired position.

##### **5.2. EPRR Core Standards Workplan 2024**

- 5.2.1.1. The ICB EPRR Team will use the NHSE feedback and action plan to facilitate focused collaborative working overseen by the EPRR Steering Group to complete a SMART work plan to achieve full compliance with as many EPRR Standards as possible before resubmission to NHSE in the late Summer of 2024.

##### **5.3. Business Continuity Management**

- 5.3.1.1. Whilst the ICB have an incident response plan, governance and support in place and a business continuity policy, it is recognised that business continuity management and risks identified as a commissioner of healthcare services need to be mitigated by robust business continuity arrangements and a clear business continuity management system.

- 5.3.1.2. A full review of Business Continuity Management arrangements within NENC ICB is to take place in early 2024 to take account for the recent changes of ICB 2.0. This will include an initial, focused Business Impact Analysis of all services and teams to be completed by the end of June 2024 after the launch of the new organisational structures in April 2024.

## **5.4. Training and Development**

- 5.4.1. The ICB carries out training in line with a training needs analysis to ensure staff are trained, qualified, competent, and current in fulfilling their response roles.
- 5.4.2. The ICB are currently working collaboratively with providers and other regional ICBs and NHS England to identify several core training packages to provide appropriate inputs to ensure all ICB and provider on-call staff covering first, and second on-call rotas are trained to undertake their roles.
- 5.4.3. The ICB are also currently working with NHSE to adopt a commander portfolio for all on-calls to support them to evidence required skill sets aligned to the national programme for principles of health command training. NHS England have undertaken training needs analysis in line with the recently published minimum occupational commander standards.
- 5.4.4. This development will also include a programme to ensure the organisation has Loggists available and trained to support any significant incident.

## **5.5. Review of On-call Rotas**

- 5.5.1. The ICB EPRR Team will be reviewing On-call rotas to meet the requirements of ICB 2.0 and will be re-aligning rotas to commence in April 2024. The review will be looking to reduce the number of daily Tactical (1<sup>st</sup>) On-calls from four to two across the ICB with a nominated Clinical and non-clinical director on rota daily to manage out of hours impacts on behalf of the ICB. A draft proposal paper will be circulated to stakeholders in February 2024.

## **6. Recommendations**

**6.1.** The ICB Board are asked to:

- Approve the NENC ICB EPRR Core Standards self-assessment as validated by the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) and Regional Health Resilience Partnership (RHRP)
- Acknowledge the workplan to be put in place, overseen by the ICB Steering Group, to ensure rapid progress in enhancing EPRR Core Standards during 2024

**Name of Author:** Tom Knox, ICB Strategic Head of Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response

**Name of Sponsoring Executive Director:** Jacqueline Myers, Executive Chief of Strategy and Operations

**Date:** 8 January 2024