

REPORT TO:	NHS SOMERSET INTEGRATED CARE BOARD ICB Board Part A	ENCLOSURE: E
DATE OF MEETING:	27 March 2025	
REPORT TITLE:	Emergency Planning, Resilience and Recovery (EPRR) Self-Assessment Assurance Report 2024	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Peter Osborne, Head of EPRR, Estates and Facilities	
EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:	Jade Renville, Director of Corporate Services and Affairs and Accountable Emergency Officer (AEO)	
PRESENTED BY:	Jade Renville, Director of Corporate Services and Affairs and Accountable Emergency Officer (AEO)	

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	SELECT
Approve	To formally receive a report and approve its recommendations, (authorising body/committee for the final decision)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Endorse	To support the recommendation (not the authorising body/committee for the final decision)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discuss	To discuss, in depth, a report noting its implications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Note	To note, without the need for discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assurance	To assure the Board/Committee that systems and processes are in place, or to advise of a gap along with mitigations	<input type="checkbox"/>

LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (Please select any which are impacted on / relevant to this paper)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Objective 1: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population
<input type="checkbox"/>	Objective 2: Reduce inequalities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objective 3: Provide the best care and support to children and adults
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objective 4: Strengthen care and support in local communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Objective 5: Respond well to complex needs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Objective 6: Enable broader social and economic development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Objective 7: Enhance productivity and value for money

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION / ENGAGEMENT
We report the position to the ICB Board annually for assurance purposes.

REPORT TO COMMITTEE / BOARD
<p>Overview of the EPRR Legislative Requirements</p> <p>The NHS Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) are the minimum standards which NHS organisations and providers of NHS funded care must meet. The purpose of the NHS core standards are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable health agencies across the country to share a common approach to EPRR. • Allow co-ordination of EPRR activities according to the organisation's size and scope. • Provide a consistent and cohesive framework for EPRR activities. • Inform the organisation's annual EPRR work programme.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005, NHS Act 2006 and Health and Care Act 2022 underpin EPRR within health. All place EPRR duties on NHS England and the NHS in England. Additionally, the NHS Standard Contract Service Conditions (SC30) require providers of NHS-funded services to comply with the NHS EPRR Framework and other NHS England guidance.

The NHS England Board has a statutory requirement to formally assure its own and the NHS in England's readiness to respond to emergencies. This is provided through the EPRR annual assurance process and assurance report. This report is submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Providers and commissioners of NHS-funded services complete an annual assurance self-assessment based on these core standards to provide the requisite assurance. This assurance process is led nationally and regionally by NHS England and locally by ICBs.

The NHS core standards for EPRR cover 10 domains:

1. governance
2. duty to risk assess
3. duty to maintain plans
4. command and control
5. training and exercising
6. response
7. warning and informing
8. co-operation
9. business continuity
10. chemical biological radiological nuclear (CBRN) and hazardous material (HAZMAT).

Organisations must have an appointed Accountable Emergency Officer (AEO) who is a board-level director and responsible for EPRR. Jade Renville is the Accountable Emergency Officer for NHS Somerset.

Core Standards Assessment – NHS Somerset

NHS Somerset was assessed against 47 core standards and has achieved substantial compliance for 2024. Notable achievements include well regarded mechanisms for multi-agency working across the system.

Of the 47 standards, all were fully compliant except for three assessed as being areas of partial compliance, which led to the substantial compliance rating. In effect, these are areas where we have recognised the opportunity for ongoing improvement.

Core Standard 23 – EPRR exercising and testing programme

A substantial amount of testing, exercising and live events were held during 2024 which provided evidence that our systems of response are strong, but the standard was assessed as partially compliant because the ICB paused its business continuity workbook programme during a period of organisational change. The programme will be resumed in 2025.

Core Standard 46 – Business Continuity - Business Impact Analysis/Assessment (BIA)

This standard also links to the pause of the business continuity workbook programme. The ICB has BIAs in place for its teams, but the aim was to further review and update the BIAs alongside the workbook programme.

Core Standard 48 – Business Continuity – Testing and Exercising

As above.

The self-assessment also includes a “deep-dive”, which for this year was on cyber security and IT related incident response. Whilst the deep dive does not count towards the overall compliance rating, we were graded as compliant on 9 out of 11 standards, and partially compliant on DD7 (training needs analysis) and DD9 (business impact assessments).

Both areas are linked to a wider programme of work being undertaken between the EPRR and digital teams that will be rolled out in 2025.

Core Standards Assessment – Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

NHS foundation trusts are assessed against a total of 62 core standards. Of the 62 core standards all were assessed as compliant, which reflects the amount of work carried out across the Trust over the last 12 months. The Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) domain (which includes 12 separate standards) was assessed by South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust as fully compliant. The self-assessment also includes a “deep-dive”, which for this year was cyber security and IT related incident response. Whilst the rating does not count towards the overall compliance rating, the Trust was fully compliant on all the standards. Other achievements include their training and exercise programme and business continuity during periods of disruption.

Other Providers

We have sought assurance from the other key providers in addition to the assurance process carried out as follows:

- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust is assessed by Dorset ICB on behalf of the region and have confirmed SWAST were rated as fully compliant.
- HUC (formerly DevonDoctors) were assessed by Hertfordshire and Essex ICB as providers of NHS111 services and were rated as substantially compliant.
- Emed (formerly Ezeq) Patient Transport Services have been assessed by BANES, Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB and rated as Substantially Compliant. The organisation moved on substantially from the previous assurance period to embed their new processes and improved their compliance substantially from a position of non-compliance in 2023.

Governance

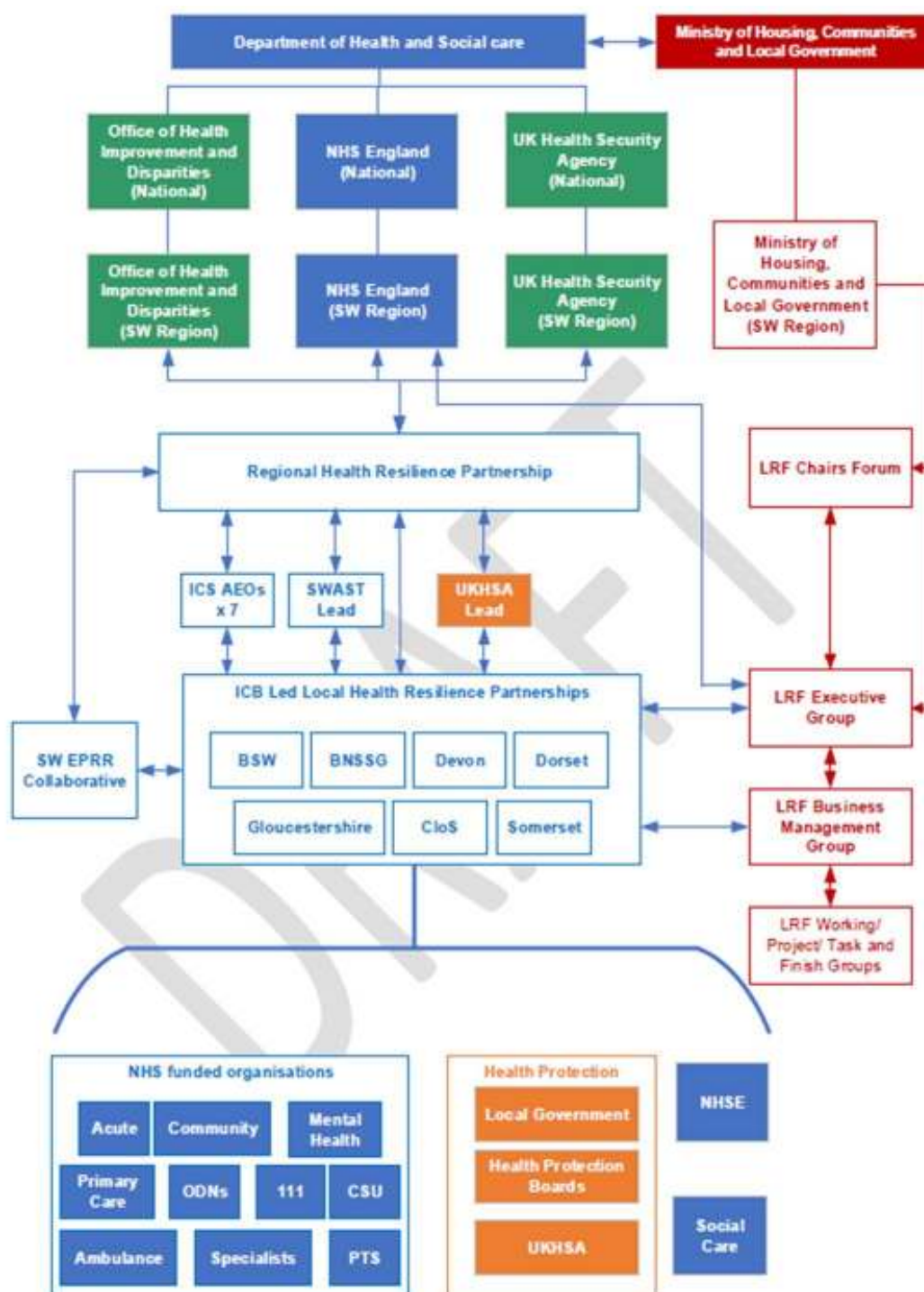
In addition to the annual assurance process, the EPRR leads for NHS Somerset, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, Somerset Council and Public Health work very closely throughout the year to ensure that work programmes are aligned, and that we have ongoing assurance of system plans and readiness. This will continue through the Somerset Local Health and Care Resilience Partnership (LHCRP), which is co-chaired by the NHS Somerset AEO and Somerset Council Consultant in Public Health.

There is a framework of formal groups which provide assurance that plans and procedures are being monitored and maintained. In particular:

- The Somerset LHCRP provides a regular forum for partners in Somerset to come together and collectively agree and monitor our work programme, risk register and training and exercise schedule.
- The Somerset Health Protection Forum (chaired by Somerset Council Public Health) brings together system partners to manage the priorities associated with health protection and the communicable disease agenda.
- Participation in the Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum (LRF), and associated working groups, which coordinate all responders in emergency planning for the region.

- NHS England Regional Health Resilience Partnership (RHRP), which the AEO attends to maintain links with Somerset LHCRC.

Figure 1: South West EPRR Structures



The NHS Somerset system coordination centre (SCC) and EPRR teams have continued to work together so processes are well aligned, and complement the management of system escalation pressures and how these can develop into business continuity or major incidents.

The ICB Board is asked to:

- Note the results of the assurance process for 2024 and the position of NHS Somerset and its partners.
- Approve the ICB's statement of compliance for 2024 (Appendix 1)

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS – KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED (please enter 'N/A' where not applicable)	
Reducing Inequalities/Equality & Diversity	Equality and diversity is considered when planning for who may be at risk in the event of an adverse incident. During any incident the vulnerabilities of people affected are considered as part of the response.
Quality	A key principle of EPPR planning is to ensure that controls and assurances are in place to manage the identified community risks and to minimise disruption and maintain the quality of services as far as possible.
Safeguarding	No safeguarding issues have been identified, but ensuring vulnerable people are identified and supported during an incident is a key part of an emergency response.
Financial/Resource/ Value for Money	Resources have been identified within the ICB budget for emergency planning and business continuity.
Sustainability	N/A
Governance/Legal/ Privacy	Arrangements underpinned in legislation via the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
Confidentiality	N/A
Risk Description	There are no significant risks to identify in relation to the compliance position. Risks are identified and managed through the EPPR governance arrangements described within the paper.

NHS Somerset ICB EPRR Statement of Compliance

- 1.1 As a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, and in line with associated EPRR guidance , NHS Somerset is required to:
- 1.2
- Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning.
 - Put in place emergency incident response plans which set out how NHS Somerset would respond to and recover from a major incident / emergency which is affecting the wider community or the delivery of services.
 - Put in place business continuity management arrangements to enable NHS Somerset to maintain or recover the delivery of critical services in the event of a disruption.
 - 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 co-ordination.
 - Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency.
- 1.3 NHS Somerset is compliant in providing an EPRR structure through which:
- NHS Somerset can meet its obligations to all appropriate EPRR guidance and standards and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
 - The emergency preparedness, resilience and response roles and responsibilities of employees are defined.
 - An Incident Response Plan is maintained in order to implement an effective response to a major incident / emergency.
 - The reputation of NHS Somerset is not compromised.
 - NHS Somerset shares information with partner agencies to enhance co-ordination and co-operation.
 - A comprehensive business continuity management system is established and maintained, following the principles of PAS 2015 and ISO 22301.
 - NHS Somerset has identified those activities which are critical to the delivery of its responsibilities and applied systems to reduce the impact of a disruption to business continuity.
 - Business continuity plans are developed, tested and regularly reviewed to ensure that NHS Somerset can deliver an effective response to a disruption to service delivery.
 - An annual cycle of EPRR exercises are held to test the effectiveness of NHS Somerset's response to a business continuity disruption and major incident.
 - NHS Somerset annually reviews the business continuity management system and emergency preparedness with the aim of agreeing EPRR objectives and strategies to drive continual improvement.
- 1.4 Our annual self-assessment position has been assured by NHS England as substantially compliant.