



Health Select Committee
9th June 2009

**Report from the Director of
Policy & Regeneration**

Wards Affected: ALL

Swine Flu Update

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Health Select Committee on the work that NHS Brent and partners have been doing in response to the swine flu outbreak.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Select Committee are recommended to note the contents of NHS Brent's report and question officers on the work they are doing to respond to the swine flu outbreak and possible pandemic.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The chair of the Health Select Committee has asked NHS Brent to provide members with an update on the work they are doing in response to swine flu. Since the end of April the number of cases of swine flu in the UK has risen steadily. As of 26th May 2009, there were 184 cases in the UK, 47 of which were actually confirmed on the 26th May (44 of the 47 were linked to one school in the West Midlands). The Department of Health Website is reporting:

"The localised cases of swine flu found in the UK have so far been mild, and we have not seen evidence of widespread community transmission... But we must not be complacent — it is right to prepare for the possibility of a global pandemic. The UK's arrangements are continuing to ensure that we are well-placed to deal with this new infection".

- 3.2 The World Health Organisation is reporting that as of 26th May 2009 there are 12,945 confirmed cases worldwide in 46 different countries and that there have been 92 deaths.

3.3 The outbreak of swine flu has generated significant media attention and each household in the UK has been sent a leaflet by the government providing information on the virus including guidance on how to prevent its spread. In addition, local health agencies have been working on plans in response to the outbreak, although the Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency are taking a lead on communicating with the public. NHS Brent has published information on its website for members of the public and is also preparing a pandemic flu plan with partners.

3.4 NHS Brent has provided a report setting out information on the work it's been doing on this issue. Members of the Health Select Committee should use this opportunity to question officers on the plans for dealing with a possible swine flu pandemic and to ensure that Brent is well prepared should the situation deteriorate in the winter months.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None

Contact Officers

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