

## **Note of the National Escalation Pressures Panel meeting**

**Friday 25 January 2019, Skipton House**

Panel attendees: Steve Powis (Chair – NHS England), Andrew Goddard (Royal College of Physicians), Carrie MacEwen (Academy of Medical Royal Colleges), Cliff Mann (NHS England), Kathy McLean (NHS Improvement), Pauline Philip (National Director for Emergency and Elective Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement), Prem Premachandran (Care Quality Commission), Keith Willett (NHS England)

1. The Chair welcomed members of the panel to the meeting. The notes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.
2. The National Director for Emergency and Elective Care brought the group up to date on preparations for winter and current performance. The management of winter pressures so far had been encouraging in and out of hospital, and in primary care.
3. There had been some recent impact from flu and the weather, but systems were working well together to manage pressures. In systems where performance was challenging, there was feedback that staff felt better supported. Other members agreed with this.
4. The Chair updated on flu. The prevalence of flu was broadly stable. H1N1 was the main strain, with no other significant strains of flu circulating. Flu vaccination rates for staff were 2% higher this year than at the same time last year.
5. The Chair and the National Director both stressed that conditions would continue to be challenging and require vigilance.
6. The Chair concluded the meeting and thanked members for their time. The next call was scheduled for two weeks' time.