Emergency Preparedness and Response
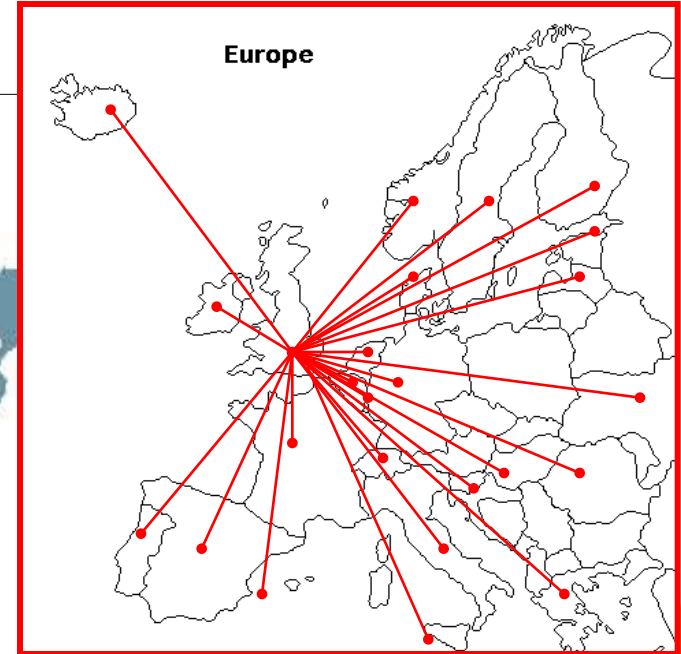
IANPHI Monday 1st November 2010

Justin McCracken

UK Health Protection Agency

Polonium Poisoning in London
- Unforeseen Hazard,
- Unquantified Risk,
- Widespread Contamination

Preparedness and Response as a public health activity − Learning from History

- Generic Plan (threat specific ones too)

  – Understand threats to health, how to identify hazards and monitor risk

  – Clarity about the roles of all organisations

  – Leadership for health issues

  – Exercising and evaluation

  – National policy framework

- Networks to access resources and intelligence
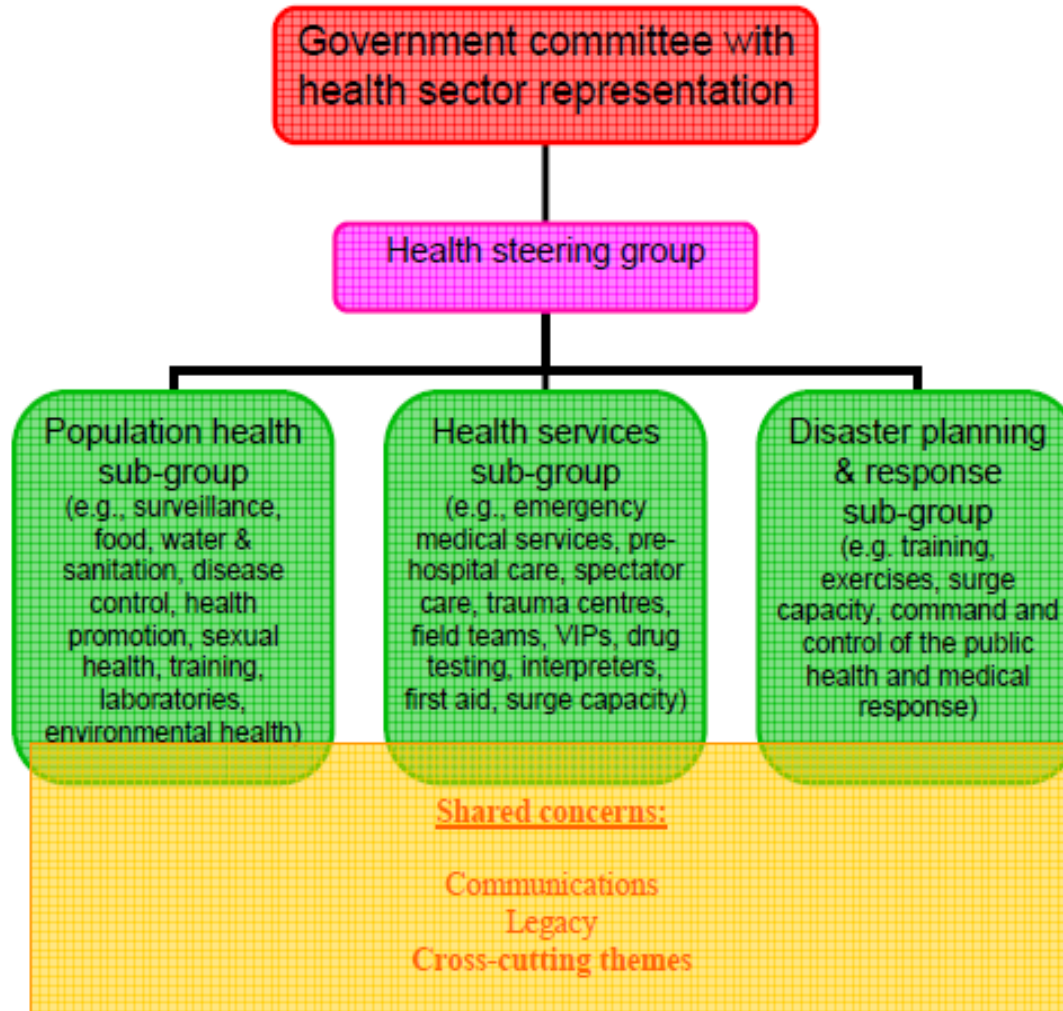
- Communications capability

Core Competencies of public health for Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Intelligence

- Surveillance

- Analysis and interpretation of statistical trends and management of investigation (Modelling)

- Risk assessment

- Public Health Response

- Communications (Public and Professionals)

- Networking

- Influencing Policy

Mass Gatherings: WHO outline framework

Mass Gatherings Toolkits

IANPHI Toolkit for Sporting Events can be found here:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/EmergencyResponse/InternationalSportingEventsToolkit/

WHO guidance for all Mass Gatherings can be found here:

www.who.int/csr/mass_gathering/en/index.html

How may the Public Health Institutes develop our capacity and capabilities?

- Develop common risk assessment systems and methods

- Develop common information and intelligence systems

- Manage availability and access to rare / niche skills

- Provide standing arrangements to implement clinical, epidemiological and emerging evidence networks for emergencies and emerging threats

Sustainable public health preparedness infrastructure & capacity - role of NPHI

- Advocacy - awareness raising, policy development, demonstration of need for resources

- Research – horizon scanning new and emerging hazards, better detection , monitoring, mitigation

- Capacity building

    - identification of core competencies

    - development & delivery of training programmes,

- Evaluation of, and learning from, responses

- Sharing of experience and resources among NPHIs