Responding to Recent Events in Salisbury

New Horizons in Health and Social Care
Reading 12th June 2018
The weekend of 3-4\textsuperscript{th} March 2018
And then this happened...

Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, were in Salisbury city centre by 1.30pm on Sunday 4 March

1. 2.30pm Sergei and Yulia visit Zizzi restaurant and nearby Mill pub.

2. 3.47pm CCTV captures two people police are keen to speak to.
   4.03pm Same CCTV camera sees a woman who goes on to see Sergei behaving strangely and Yulia passed out on a bench.

3. 4.15pm A member of the public dials 999. Police and paramedics arrive quickly and work on the couple at the scene.
   5.11pm Yulia airlifted to hospital; Sergei taken by road.
   8.20pm Officers in protective suits examine the area.

Guardian graphic. Image: Google Earth
Events on 4.3.18

16.19 Call to SWAST
Male “fitting” on a bench in town centre, female collapsed

16.51: conveyed to SFT
In two ambulances, female intubated en route, male on arrival

Treated in ED
Hypoventilation, hypotension, pinpoint pupils, seizures and bradycardia – suspected opiate overdose

18.40 Transferred to ICU
Supportive treatment continued.

03.00 5.3.18
Medical staff suspect something odd
Research and enquiries

08.00 5.3.18
3rd and 4th casualties
Major incident declared
Major Incident response 05.03.18

• Internal major incident declared 09.03
• Multiagency incident declared 10.10
• Operation Fairline
• Media arrived on site 12.50
• Presentation of several first responders
• ITU patients responding poorly to treatment- further research, enquiries testing and advice
• Blood and fluid samples to DSTL by mid afternoon
• 6.3.18 08.00 working diagnosis of organophosphate poisoning
Ongoing incident

- Three patients treated on ITU
- One outpatient
- About 50 seen and assessed in ED
- Nick Bailey discharged on 22\textsuperscript{nd} March
- Yulia Skripal discharged on 10\textsuperscript{th} April
- Sergei Skripal discharged on 18\textsuperscript{th} May
- Yulia Skripal TV statement on 23\textsuperscript{rd} May
Clinical

- Treated according to first principals
- Prognosis unclear – planning for worst case scenario
- Source of poison unclear – led to conflicting advice
- Protecting our staff
What are nerve agents?

- Chemically similar to organophosphate insecticides
- Bind to and irreversibly inhibit acetylcholinesterase
- AChase breaks down and inactivates Ach which transmits signals between nerves, and from nerve to muscles and other end organs
- Initial overstimulation followed by the muscles stopping working
- Antidotes block the effects of unopposed ACh
- Need to continue until the body generates new acetylcholinesterase
Security and Confidentiality

- Major incident gold command
- Patient safety and security
- Patient confidentiality
- Protecting their best interests – blood samples
- Sharing information to help the police
- Distinguished visitors
Media

- UK press
- Our staff
- Russian press
- Hoax callers
- Social media
- Conspiracy theorists
Political

- Whitehall
- Number 10
- Russian embassy
- International experts
- Organisation for the prohibition of chemical weapons
Communications

- Support from NHSI
- Official comms slow and clunky
- Briefings for all staff
- Briefings for ITU and ED staff
- Never enough!
- Major incident debriefs
- Staff still need support
- How to share the clinical lessons learned
The rest of the hospital

- Didn’t close
- Didn’t divert
- No cancellations
- No non-clinical transfers
- Double-running ITU team
- Backfill from neighbours
- Extra hours ++

Are they still here?