

**Emergency Planning Shared Service Joint Committee
– Rotherham and Sheffield**

Thursday 3 November 2016

General update for information / discussion

Purpose of paper:

To provide the Joint Committee with a general update on key issues or work streams affecting the Emergency Planning Shared Service.

Key Issues:

1. Get ready for winter 2016/17

This annual initiative will be launched formally on 7 November aimed at promoting winter weather preparedness. A number of national resources are to be made available to support local planning and will be promoted through both the Local Resilience Forum Website, and locally. This material has also been shared with stakeholders across both councils to be utilised as appropriate.

Complementary to this both councils will again run their annual “seasonal flu vaccine” campaigns aimed at eligible health and social care workers receiving a seasonal flu vaccination free of charge to support the continuity of service delivery and the corporate winter weather resilience plan will be updated in line with the Cold Weather Plan for England (Distributed 19 October) aimed at preventing avoidable harm to health, alerting people to the negative health effects of cold weather and enabling them to prepare and respond appropriately.

2. Power Outage

A workshop was held in July 2016 aimed at strategic and tactical level officers to assist in determining the implications of an electricity blackout lasting up to five days. More information has become known about this risk scenario, which has led to a review of category one and two responder’s ability to deliver a sustained response, under pressing circumstances. This is still being explored fully, both internally and with Local Resilience Forum partners. Lessons as identified following the SCC corporate exercise (Exercise Dusk) have been incorporated into this.

A new telephone number (105) has also been launched nationally to report issues with power supplies; this has been promoted through our resilience forums.

3. Definition of a Major Incident

Following a period of consultation, the Cabinet Office launched a revised definition of a Major Incident; this is to be included in new Emergency response and Recovery Guidance when published. The new definition now reads;

An event or situation, with a range of serious consequences, which requires special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder agencies.

This revision, is aimed at providing clarity in a simpler, meaningful descriptor, and aimed at supporting lessons repeatedly identified regarding the importance of an early declaration of a Major Incident amongst responders. This definition will be included in the second edition of the JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability programme) aimed clearer communication and sharing information amongst first responders. This will be referenced in our contingency plans, when reviewed and re-issued as well as incorporated in to training material.

4. Site Clearance Capability

DCLG have issued revised guidance earlier this year aimed at facilitating effective clearance of site following an event of incident that has resulted in rubble, debris or other material being deposited. Whilst the involvement of the Council may be limited or discreet in the early stages, when moving into recovery phase would be more prominent. The council recovery arrangements were reviewed in line with this new guidance, and no significant changes to processes required. A workshop is to be facilitated through DCLG to support this new guidance.

5. Human infectious Disease Planning; Pandemic Influenza

Over recent months, much work has been done by local Public Health teams in terms of the response to a pandemic influenza scenario; this is complemented by the corporate planning carried out by the Emergency Planning Shared Service which addresses the wider council resilience measures and preparedness. This has been exercised in a number of settings over recent months, both with health colleague and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). More recently, the SY LRF participated in the national exercise (Exercise Cygnus 18-20 October 2016). Aimed at testing processes associated with strategic command and control, excess death and health and social care capacity and capability. The lessons identified through these exercises are still being formulated, but will undoubtedly require our planning processes to be reviewed and refreshed and will be presented to respective resilience management groups.

Conclusion:

The service continues to be an active member of the Local Resilience Forum, and associated subgroups, contributing to the vast achievements across multi agency partners under the LRF umbrella. Individually within the authorities, a number of achievements continue to be made, albeit given recent pressures, some actions delivered on a protracted timeline.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the content of the report, and ensure continued support.