

Briefing Paper

Emergency Planning Shared Service Joint Committee – Rotherham & Sheffield

10 December 2013

Rotherham Town Hall

Purpose of paper:

To update Members on the development of various resilience plans.

Background information:

Over the last twelve months, a number of corporate resilience plans produced by the Shared Service have been significantly reviewed and updated with consultation having been carried out with stakeholders throughout the process. Plans undergoing this update include: the Influenza Pandemic Plan, Severe Winter Weather Plan and Corporate Recovery & Restoration framework. Further details are provided below.

Key Plans:

Corporate Influenza Pandemic Plan

The Corporate Influenza Plan has been reviewed and updated as a result of a number of factors including: the annual review of business continuity plans; the integration of public health function into the council from March 2013; the launch of revised national strategies & Cabinet Office guidance (July 2013) and Local Resilience Forum Planning,.

Within Rotherham MBC, a draft version, incorporating the additional Director of Public Health statutory responsibility (to ensure the local authority's contribution to health protection matters, including a role in planning for and responding to incidents that present a threat to the health of the public) was circulated to Directors and other stakeholders in October. Comments received are being incorporated into the plan and this will then be disseminated. Please note discussions with Public Health colleagues in Rotherham & Sheffield are still on-going at the time of writing. Unfortunately, this process has been somewhat protracted and delayed within Sheffield CC owing to a need to consult with the recently appointed Health Protection Manager. However, these discussions have now commenced and the plan will be prioritised for consultation with other stakeholders and subsequent dissemination.

Severe Winter Weather Plan

A conceptual framework was produced for the winter of 2012, however this has been enhanced and initiatives explored further with stakeholders over the last twelve months, along with incorporating issues as raised in the National Cold Weather Plan (2013), culminating in the production of the Corporate Severe Winter Weather Plan.

Annually, different departments across the council deploy a number of winter specific contingencies, for example winter gritting programmes, or additional measures to maintain health and social care services and, whilst these have been recognised and referred to within the corporate framework, they are not replicated and, as such, remain subject to separate planning arrangements. The Corporate Severe Winter Weather Plan provides an overarching approach to the issues, although the measures will be worked in conjunction with those of other departments and external partners, thus ensuring planning arrangements are complementary. The 2013 Plans were disseminated in draft for consultation with Directors and other stakeholders in October and the resulting comments have been incorporated. Both the Rotherham and Sheffield plans are currently being prepared for dissemination, albeit the latter has proved more complex given the number of other parties involved.

Corporate Recovery and Restoration Framework

Both Rotherham and Sheffield councils have previously had a recovery section in either the Borough Emergency Plan or Major Incident Plan respectively to deal with the aftermath of a major incident or disruption. Following an internal review, it was deemed appropriate to extrapolate this section; enhance it with recently published national guidance and thus be more reflective of best practice and lessons identified from recent events, both within South Yorkshire and further afield

With this in mind, a series of workshops were held with colleagues to raise awareness and consult on the draft content, culminating in a half day exercise that took place in May this year in Rotherham that aimed to *raise awareness within the council of the statutory requirements to manage the recovery phase, validate the contents of the draft recovery framework and highlight any associated issues for proactive detailed future planning.*

A number of debrief sessions were held with participants following the exercise with a number of specific operational and tactical issues being raised. These have been embedded within planning arrangements for both authorities.

Now, building on the experience of raising awareness amongst colleagues within Rotherham MBC, this process is being repeated for the Sheffield City Council, framework for recovery & restoration currently. Four dates have been arranged between 24 January and 14 February 2014 for workshops to take place and the Corporate Resilience Management Group have been appropriately briefed. This process will culminate in an SCC recovery exercise in early 2014.

The draft Rotherham Recovery & Restoration plan will be presented to the Council's Senior Emergency Safety Management Team (SESMT) on 11 December for consideration. Once finalised, it will be a relatively straightforward process to populate a suitably amended Sheffield version.

Members should note that recovery and restoration will be the theme for the LRF's annual Gold Symposium on 20 May 2014.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the contents of this report