

# South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Annual Report 2013/2014



## Foreword by the Chair of South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum



This is the first Annual Report of the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum since the restructure following the review carried out in 2012.

The review was necessary to ensure the Local Resilience Forum remained focused while becoming more efficient, at a time when all partner organisations are under significant pressure to reduce costs. We are now in better shape to fulfil our obligations to the public of South Yorkshire, and look forward to meeting the challenges that come our way head on.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the partner organisations involved in South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum for their enthusiasm, effort and hard work in ensuring that the Local Resilience Forum can carry out its functions. Over the years, South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum partners have co-operated and worked together to plan for, and deal with major incidents and events, on behalf of the people of South Yorkshire. The challenges ranged from dealing with the devastating floods of 2007, through to the carnival atmosphere of the Olympic Torch Relay in 2012, and will continue as we look forward to the initial stages of the Tour de France running through the county in July 2014.

Other important aspects of our work involve creating the Community Risk Register, giving you access to information on potential risks posed to the population of South Yorkshire from events such as flooding, severe weather.

In order to keep you informed of our work on your behalf, our website has also undergone a refresh, and can be found at:

[www.southyorksprepared.org.uk](http://www.southyorksprepared.org.uk)

Please visit the website and find out more about the Local Resilience Forum, our work protecting the communities of South Yorkshire, and for advice on preparing your homes, businesses and communities in the event of an emergency.



**David Crompton, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police,  
Chair of the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum.**

## **Business Management Group, Chaired by Rachel Barber, South Yorkshire Police**



The Local Resilience Forum brings together all agencies with a significant role to play in responding to and recovering from emergencies, and was formed to meet the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Business Management Group is a tactical level management group who report to the Local Resilience Forum Strategic Group.

The stated aim of the Business Management Group is 'To plan and deliver the Local Resilience Forum strategy and work programme, by directing and co-ordinating the work through sub groups where necessary, and presenting and reporting issues, strategic recommendations and progress to the Local Resilience Forum'.

To this end, the Business Management Group manages its own 11 objectives under the Local Resilience Forum Business Plan, and sets and monitors the objectives of the Local Resilience Forum standing sub groups, in order to ensure timely progress is being made.

The Business Management Group will also set up and monitor Task and Finish groups to deal with issues that fall outside of the remit of the standing sub groups. These groups generally report on single-issue tasks, working to a tight timescale, and disband at the end of the task. Task and Finish group subjects have so far this year included 'Emergency Closure of the A628 Woodhead Pass', 'Community Resilience', 'Emergency Mortuary Provision within South Yorkshire', and 'Fuel planning in the event of a national fuel shortage'. They have also investigated the need for a bespoke emergency plan to deal with a major incident on the motorway in South Yorkshire.

The Business Management Group assists partner agencies in co-ordinating the response to, and managing the impact of, incidents on partner organisations, including maintaining Business Continuity during emergencies.

Teleconferences were held in response to severe weather events, enabling a co-ordinated response between emergency services, local authorities, the Highways Agency, Health and Transport providers, ensuring that all partner agencies were aware of the current situation, the specific needs of partner organisations, and that resources were efficiently utilised.

A multi agency response was put in place to mitigate the risk of a potential breach of the South Yorkshire Navigation Canal in Doncaster. Local residents and businesses were made aware of the likelihood and potential impact of a breach occurring, and what action to take in the event of a breach. Information was given regarding the ongoing work to mitigate the risk, and the timescales involved.

Essential repair works were carried out without any breach occurring.

The impact on the public of recent industrial action by Firefighters was lessened by contingency plans involving a multi agency response to ensure that alternative premises were available for working fire crews to operate from. Local Resilience Forum partners briefed their staff in relation to changing risks and necessary actions in the event of a fire during a strike period. Safety advice and information was disseminated through the press, TV, Radio and social media.

South Yorkshire has seen a number of large demonstrations in the county by right wing groups, resulting in equally large counter demonstrations. A great deal of planning from Local Resilience Forum partners went into the sizeable multi agency operations which were then co-ordinated through the Local Resilience Forum structure and multi agency Strategic Coordinating Group to ensure the demonstrations passed by as peacefully and with as little impact as possible on the citizens of the county.

The Local Resilience Forum holds an annual Gold Symposium to train and educate commanders from partner agencies together in a multi agency setting. The Symposium is now a very popular and well established annual event, providing valuable insight and information to strategic commanders from all over the north of England on dealing with major incidents. Over recent years, the Symposium has covered aspects of a major incident including planning, preparedness and response through to the provision of humanitarian assistance to those displaced from their homes and the return to normality following recovery from an incident. This years theme will be Community Resilience, helping agencies to understand how to link in with communities and enable them to help themselves in times of crisis.

Looking to the future, the Tour de France Grand Depart comes to Yorkshire on 05th and 06th July 2014. The Tour de France is expected to attract significant numbers of spectators to Yorkshire and has been the focus of much planning by partners in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable sporting experience.

South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum has been selected to play a key role in Exercise Cygnus later in the year. This is a national training exercise designed to give partner agencies realistic experience of the far reaching effects that an influenza pandemic would have on the country. The learning gained from exercising is then fed back into planning for events to ensure that we provide the best possible response to an incident.

South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum are actively increasing their contact with partner agencies, and now have representation on the Yorkshire & Humber and North East Lifeline Services Group in order to access utility providers and the voluntary sector partners in the region. The British Red Cross attend the Business Management Group and Strategic Local Resilience Forum meetings in order to represent the views of the voluntary sector and assist partners.



## **Risk Management and Planning Group, Chaired by Diane Smith, NHS England (South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw)**



The aim of the Risk Management and Planning Group is to “generate and subsequently review on a regular basis on behalf of South Yorkshire a Community Risk Register to inform contingency planning arrangements”.

The Community Risk Register is based on national guidance and local knowledge and identifies circumstances, situations or events with the potential to lead to civil emergencies in South Yorkshire.

Specific individual risk assessments are then produced for each risk. These risk assessments are produced by ‘Risk Leads’, who are the most appropriate Local Resilience Forum partner based on the nature of the risk, and identify existing and additionally required preventative and mitigation measures/controls/capabilities and contingency plans.

The Community Risk Register then rates the risks to give a hierarchy but then importantly produces a list of relative risk priorities for management and planning thus ensuring that efforts to mitigate risks are proportionate and rational. In May 2013 the Group submitted a fully revised Community Risk Register to the Local Resilience Forum.

The Community Risk Register highlighted that the highest risks in the county are pandemic flu, flooding and forest/moorland fires. However, taking account of the work that has previously been carried out in relation to these risks, forest/moorland fires are identified as the priority for risk management action.

The Community Risk Register is used as the basis for all other work within the Local Resilience Forum, making risk the foundation of resilience efforts in the county. Reflecting the ongoing nature of the work of the Group, a review of the register was started in summer 2013 and this will result in a revised Community Risk Register being submitted to the Local Resilience Forum in May 2014.

The cycle will then recommence in summer 2014. During early 2014 the Group has been working with the Public Information and Media Group to produce a public version of the Community Risk Register to inform communities initially of the ‘top 10’ risks within the county and raise awareness of both how these are/would be addressed by the Local Resilience Forum and inform individuals and communities of the actions they can take to be better able to respond to civil emergencies.



## Public Information and Media, Chaired by Carrie Goodwin, Head of Corporate Communications at South Yorkshire Police



Members of the Local Resilience Forum's Public Information and Media Group focused their attention on three key areas of work during 2013/14.

Plans setting out how best to communicate with the public of South Yorkshire in the event of a major incident or emergency were refined and refreshed and a new overarching communications strategy was developed. Work was also carried out to produce a new, public-facing version of the Community Risk Register and this will go live in the summer 2014. Communications officers also attended a number of training events and exercises during the year to test their preparedness for a major incident – including an event (pictured) staged principally for volunteer agencies - and a specific training course purely for communications officers was held in March.

The best test of our ability to communicate effectively with the public in an emergency situation is always real, live incidents. During the course of the year communications officers from the emergency services, local authorities and other organisations had to respond to a number of major issues, including industrial action, public protest and the discovery of World War 2 bombs in the Barnsley area in March which required the evacuation of residents from more than 100 homes.

In the coming year the Public Information and Media Group intends to further develop its work. The action plan includes holding further training courses for communications officers and to hold at least one exercise which will test the communications response should one of the most likely risks facing the county (as identified by the Community Risk Register) happen.

The group also plans to revamp the Local Resilience Forum's website to ensure that it contains relevant, comprehensive and easily accessible advice to residents about how best they can prepare themselves to respond to a major incident or emergency situation, and to provide residents with a clearer understanding of the most likely risks and hazards that face South Yorkshire.



## Training & Exercising Group, Chaired by Stewart Layhe, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue



The group is responsible for developing, planning, organising and co-ordinating training and exercising needs according to the Local Resilience Forum's strategic priorities, the outputs from the Risk Management and Planning Group and subsequent business plan of the Business Management Group. Our membership includes representatives of Category 1 & 2 responders, the Military and Voluntary sector.

South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum's preparedness in the response to and recovery from foreseeable emergencies is paramount, and the Community Risk Register drives all our work. This part of the annual report summarises some of the key achievements of the Training & Exercising Group over the year.

The group has consulted resilience partners to identify their training needs and developed a training schedule to meet all levels command training. Packages delivered relate to the response and consequence management of an emergency, all of which include interoperability. The Local Resilience Forum has embraced the National Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP), whose aim is to improve how the police, fire and ambulance services work together at the scene of a major or complex incident as one part of the wider multi agency response.

Other training packages include how we effectively communicate with the public before, during and after an emergency, and a focus on the recovery from an emergency, including humanitarian assistance centres and post incident considerations.

Exercising of emergency plans and our multi agency preparedness has seen several exercises including:

- **Exercise Rutland, which brought together colleagues to consider our response to and recovery from a Dam Inundation in South Yorkshire.**
- **Exercise Volunteer, which included emergency responders working with students from a local college and the voluntary sector to consider the multi agency response to a major incident at a South Yorkshire leisure venue.**
- **Exercise Pulaski, which considered the multi agency response to a wildfire in South Yorkshire.**

Each exercise includes a debrief report to ensure that multi agency organisational learning is captured and translated into developmental action.

Value for money has been paramount which has resulted in the majority of our training and exercising being delivered at no cost or supplemented by external funding.



## **South Yorkshire Humanitarian Assistance Group, Chaired by Rosalind McDonagh, Doncaster MBC**



### **Purpose**

The South Yorkshire Humanitarian Assistance Group is a sub-group of the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Business Management Group.

The group aims to “support the development and embedding of humanitarian assistance response and recovery capabilities within the Civil Contingencies arrangements of South Yorkshire

Local Resilience Forum.” This is the newest sub-group established by the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Business Management Group.

### **Key Activities.**

External advice on the purpose of the group and how it could support the work of South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum partners and the capabilities was sought from National Humanitarian Assistance Organisations, Dept Communities and Local Government and Emergency Planning College.

A Humanitarian Assistance capabilities assessment was undertaken and used as a reference document to inform work priorities and the “offer” to South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum.

### **Areas Identified**

The group quickly established that many of the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum plans were functional plans which considered hazards, risks and response resources and did not consider the likely impact on people as a result of an emergency.

Most organisations viewed Humanitarian Assistance as being provided through bolt on plans or arrangements, or as part of another organisations responsibility.

The group have identified that there are no emergencies in the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Risk Register which do not impact on people.

The group agreed that a key output from the group for South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum should not be another plan, but rather a change in culture and activities within the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum to support the embedding of a humanitarian approach to planning, training, exercising, response and recovery.



## **Outcomes**

*At the 30th January Business Management Group Meeting it was agreed that:*

1. The South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Humanitarian Assistance Group would be further developed to be used as a resource to support the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum response to incidents
2. Adopt for use in South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Plans the list of Humanitarian Assistance considerations for South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum plans provided by the group
3. Adopt for use in South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum training and exercise the Humanitarian Assistance considerations provide by the group
4. The group has received recognition from the National EPS Humanitarian Assistance Group of the work of the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum and a proposal to further develop the work of the group into humanitarian assistance guidance that could be used nationally.



## **Proposed Activities for 2014 2015**

Continue to support the development and embedding of a Humanitarian Assistance culture within South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum, and work toward national recognition of good practice.

## Telecommunications Sub Group (TSG), Chaired by Chris Lucas, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust



The Telecommunications Sub Group works to ensure that operational response communications between Local Resilience Forum members is effective and co-ordinated to ensure information can be shared between responding organisations. Over the last year the Telecommunications Sub Group on behalf of the Local Resilience Forum has ensured Mobile Telephone

Privileged Access Scheme (MTPAS) has been audited and kept up to date and the High Integrity Telecommunications System (HITS) has been tested on a regular basis. The testing has been completed by the South Yorkshire Police Contingency Planning Team on both a regional and national basis.

The group also considers interoperable communications with a focus on Airwave, this is the mobile communications network dedicated for the use by the emergency services in Great Britain. The work on interoperable communications also supports the doctrine being delivered via the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) and enables this to be cascaded across all responding organisations. The Telecommunications Sub Group will also look to identify lessons relating to communications in exercises, as successful interoperable communication is a specific objective..

Looking forward the Telecommunications Sub Group intends to update its guidance for all Local Resilience Forum members and ensure the guidance is tested; this will include the use of RAYNET (Radio Amateurs Emergency Network) to provide an additional layer of resilience. Furthermore, the Telecommunications Sub Group will promote the migration of responder organisations from the National Resilience Extranet to the new Resilience Direct system. This will enable all responding organisations to be able to share information on a common platform leading to a better planning process.

