

## 13.3 Community Resilience Plans

<b>Improvement Project Title:</b> Community Led Resilience Planning in Vulnerable Areas
<b>Executive Sponsor (Chair of Outcome Improvement Group):</b> Jillian Evans, Chair of Sustainable City Group
<b>Project Lead:</b> Richard Finlay, SFRS
<b>Aim statement</b> Community led resilience plans in place for areas most vulnerable to flooding by 2023, leading to resilience plans in place across all areas of Aberdeen by 2026.
<b>Link to Local Outcome Improvement Plan:</b> Stretch Outcome 14: Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate  Key driver 13.2 Contributing to the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts by developing a bottom up approach to community resilience to encourage greater ownership and independent action towards understanding communities' risks from climate change and adapting to them.  Improvement Project has <b>links</b> with:  <u>Prosperous People</u> Stretch Outcome 11 Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026  Improvement Project Aim: <a href="#">Increase opportunities for people to increase their contribution to communities (volunteering) by 10% by 2023.</a>
<b>Link to Locality Plans</b>  This project has community ideas from the North and Central locality Plans aligned to it.
<b>Why is this important and issues with the current system?</b>  The fundamental rationale for this project is to achieve community resilience - the sustained ability of a community to respond to, withstand and recover from adverse situations. Events caused by severe weather, particularly flooding is the focus of this improvement project because it addresses current problems whilst opening the door to conversations about resilience more generally.  The underlying aim of the project is to reduce the number of people and businesses displaced from their homes and facilities due to severe weather, to minimise effects on health and well-being and to reduce the costs of damages.  The proposition to this improvement project is that we can create a community 'call to action' by raising awareness, identifying and developing community champions and supporting the development of resilience plans. The focus of these resilience plans will be how the community can work together to prevent, mitigate and respond to environmental events, particularly flooding.  In developing and implementing a community resilience plan, a community can come together and overcome any disaster, while rebuilding physically and economically <sup>1</sup> . Our improvement

<sup>1</sup> Sharifi, Ayyoob (October 2016). "A critical review of selected tools for assessing community resilience". *Ecological Indicators*. **69**: 629–647. doi:10.1016/j.ecolind.2016.05.023

approach involves facilitating the setting up of community groups in each area and equipping them with a framework, resources and access to expertise that can help develop capacity and cohesion. The need for this was identified by stakeholders involved in “Aberdeen Adapts” where people wanted a platform for support, communication and collaboration so that local people know where to go for assistance. It also means that public/emergency services can be targeted and used most effectively.

Having a community that can work together in an emergency situation reduces the risk to people and properties. It means that local people are more prepared whilst awaiting emergency response (such as evacuation). Again this was identified in the feedback for “Aberdeen Adapts” where communities are well placed to observe and report emerging local issues. So our efforts give us scope to help avoid and prevent issues as well as preparing and responding. Prevention, preparedness and action ready creates a resilience that is likely to improve outcomes for health and well-being.

A community that is well prepared against environmental and emergency situations will help to avoid/reduce costs of damages to property and premises and ultimately insurance costs.

There are wider benefits of community resilience, particularly efforts to promote social inclusion and helping to identify and support most vulnerable members of the community.

#### **Measures:**

##### **Outcome Measures:**

- Number of community led resilience plans in place in areas most vulnerable to flooding
- Number of community led resilience plans in place across Aberdeen

Community Resilience Plans Baseline 2017/18 = 2

##### **Process measures:**

- Number of resilience groups in each community
- Number of resilience groups chaired by a member of the community
- Number and diversity of volunteers/participants/businesses on each group and the frequency of attendance
- The existence of a resilience plan and its comprehensive nature with named people who ensure the plan can be executed
- Increase in data completeness on the ‘at risk’ database to identify people most vulnerable
- No. of community visits to raise awareness of resilience issues in localities
- No. of community members attending and involvement of local businesses
- Number of people displaced from their homes due to severe weather (whilst acknowledging that climate change may increase the frequency and severity of weather events occurring)
- Number of community facilities closed due to severe weather
- Cost of damages due to severe weather incidents
- No. of properties with level protection
- No. Attendances, admissions and length of stay in hospital following severe weather event

##### **Change ideas (What can we do that will result in improvement?)**

Learning from the success of community resilience planning elsewhere, our main change idea is test the most effective ways to engage with community groups that could lead in the development and delivery of community flood resilience, and to persuade key people to become champions for their community. In so doing, we expect these individuals and groups to be able to use the most relevant

levers to encourage community efforts which will protect households and facilities against emergencies and environmental disasters. This will be done by:

- Social media/local messaging/engagement efforts to make the case for change and encourage community interest and participation in community resilience planning.
- Raising awareness of the resources, organisations and support that exists.
- Engaging with the community to provide education and training on dealing with severe weather events and flooding.
- Targeting vulnerable groups and those with less capacity to adapt aiming to involve them in resilience planning particular to their needs (e.g. elderly people, people on low incomes, or with poor housing quality and limited mobility).
- Continue to identify and establish the role of community champions and resilience partnerships.
- Developing a blueprint process or plan that is adaptable, to assist new community groups to develop a community flood resilience plan that fits their area and empowers individuals to help their community.

### **Location/Test Group**

Areas most vulnerable to flooding in North, South and Central Localities e.g. North Area: Heathryfold – building on the flood alleviation scheme, and using the community links that are already in place because of that scheme, to develop it further in terms of community resilience.

### **Resources**

Developing and delivering any potential practical flood response training to relevant community groups involved in the project will be provided by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in consultation and partnership with the MCA. A Water Rescue resource is based in Central Fire Station, Aberdeen, and is well placed to deliver any training requirements. The external funding team have been contacted to establish whether funding may be available for using local media to engage community and raise awareness in the project.

### **Potential Barriers:**

Lack of interest and motivation from communities and therefore limited involvement in a community led effort. We hope to mitigate this risk through the ‘change ideas’ and particularly the recruitment of community champions described above.

Physical and mental health issues may prevent people from getting involved however our focused effort on vulnerable groups should help.

Funding to invest in infrastructure needs that may emerge such as communication technology and information resources. There are possibilities for external funding sources and we are pursuing these.

### **Project Team:**

Richard Findlay, SFRS - Project Lead  
Fiona Mann, Emergency Plan ,Resilience & Civic Lead • Commissioning - Governance  
Darren Watson, SFRS - Water Safety Champion  
Graham Robertson, Civil Contingency Office, SFRS  
Paul Laidlaw, Scottish Flood Forum  
Milne Weir, Scottish Ambulance Service (TBC)  
Alison Leslie, Sustainability Development Officer, ACC  
Tara Mackie, Civil Contingency Advisor, Public Health, NHS Grampian  
Police Scotland/Local Resilience Partnership – TBC  
Alan Robertson to nominate from Flooding Team, ACC

Ross Greenhill, Coastguard  
 Colin Gray, Regional Emergency Planning Officer (TBC)  
 Scottish Environment Protection Agency (TBC)  
 Ann Wakefield, Public representative and member of Culter Resilience Partnership

**Community Ideas for Improvement Evaluation/Status**

<b>Community Ideas for Improvement</b>	<b>Evaluation Rationale</b>
<b>North</b>	Project will facilitate a focus group with LEG/PNP members, to establish a community-led approach to developing resilience plans in areas most vulnerable to flooding.
Build on learning from pandemic - continue to develop community connections—build on community spirit. Has to be local and led by local people.	This aligns with aim of the project. Empowering and supporting communities is vital aspect of the project. Project will review community based pandemic response, and identify individuals/groups that played the part of community champion/advocate/lead. Arrange a focus group with these individuals to see how their experiences could inform this project to improve its outcomes, and to identify if the same individuals can play a part in building community resilience.
Continue to develop the Heathryfold flood alleviation scheme.	Project will engage with community stakeholders, to see where scheme has been a success, where it can develop further, and to see where lessons can be applied to other projects.
<b>South</b>	There are no community ideas for improvement from the South locality aligned to this project.
<b>Central</b>	Project will facilitate a focus group with LEG/PNP members, to establish a community-led approach to developing resilience plans in areas most vulnerable to flooding.
Develop flood and community resilience plans.	This aligns with aim of the project. Empowering and supporting communities is vital aspect of the project and project will review community based pandemic response, and identify individuals/groups that played the part of community champion/advocate/lead.

**Outline Project Plan - Set out your initial plan about the timeline for your project. (This should be reviewed regularly)**

<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<b>Getting Started</b> (Project Score 1-3)	It's been two years since initial approval of charter. Review current progress with identifying and establishing community champions, and continue to develop new resilience partnerships. Establish that ongoing work still matches areas most vulnerable to flooding. (Engage with SEPA to identify areas currently most at risk).  Facilitate a focus group with LEG/PNP members, to establish where best to engage the community with this project, in line with advice from SEPA regarding the areas most vulnerable to flooding.	Nov 2021

<p><b>Designing and Testing Changes</b> (Project Score 4-7)</p>	<p>Review existing flood &amp; resilience plans, as well as establish training requirements, to ensure existing community groups &amp; resilience partnerships can deliver the required outcomes of plans. Test plan via tabletop or practical exercise. Draw on lessons learned from community response to the pandemic to inform potential improvements to existing plans and processes.</p>	<p>Feb 2022</p>
<p><b>Implementing and sustaining changes that demonstrate improvement</b> (Project Score 7-10)</p>	<p>Share good practice from successful resilience partnerships, including the framework developed by Culter. Develop training and support packages from public sector/emergency services. Use all these elements to develop a 'blueprint process' for establishing a community champion/resilience partnership and to develop a community-led flood resilience plan in new areas. Develop measurable outcomes to assess the success of the blueprint process. Use the blueprint process to establish community led plans in any remaining areas vulnerable to flooding.</p>	<p>August 2022</p>
<p><b>Spreading Changes</b> (Project Score 9-10)</p>	<p>Continue to engage with community resilience groups and encourage them to reach out to other, new groups. Ultimately, we see the groups operating within the Resilience Partnership, embedding them as an equal partner.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing process.</p>