

14.1 Community Resilience Plans

Improvement Project Title: Community Led Resilience Planning in Vulnerable Areas
Executive Sponsor (Chair of Outcome Improvement Group): Jillian Evans, Chair of Sustainable City Group
Project Lead: Dawn Shultz (Interim Lead Andy Buchan, SFRS)
<p>Aim statement</p> <p>Establish “community led and owned” resilience plans in areas that are most vulnerable to flooding and severe weather, identified as Deeside, Peterculter, Bridge of Don and Denmore by 2021.</p> <p>Community Resilience Plans Baseline 2019/20 = 0 Target 2021 = 4</p>
<p>Link to Local Outcome Improvement Plan:</p> <p>This project relates to stretch outcome 14 under Prosperous Place, by adapting to the effects of our changing climate. Ideally we would like the project to include collective mitigating efforts such as emission reduction, but acknowledge that this may occur as the project matures and evolves.</p> <p>Key driver 14.2 is to develop a bottom up approach to community resilience to encourage greater ownership and independent action towards preventing and mitigating the impact of climate change.</p>
<p>Why is this important?</p> <p>Extract from LOIP 2019</p> <p><i>“Building strong and resilient communities is vital to achieve our aims and this means building capability in our communities to take more control of their own lives – economically, environmentally and socially. Listening to what matters to our communities in relation to resilience will help us to develop a bottom up approach, encouraging greater ownership and independent action. This will be supported by using and developing partner-wide intelligence, providing user-friendly materials and raising awareness of the resources that are available to help communities think about self-management and community led action.”</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In developing and implementing a community resilience plan, a community can come together and overcome any disaster, while rebuilding physically and economically¹. Our improvement 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.</p>

¹ 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

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: (How will we know if a change is an improvement?)

We will only be able to know definitively if the change has resulted in improvement following a live emergency/environmental situation. However we would like to undertake a resilience test in each community to understand what did/could work well even in a simulated situation, where things could be improved and if any gaps remain.

There are *intermediate and process measures* of progress which indicate the likely chance of success:

- The existence of a resilience group in each community
- The chairmanship by a member of the community
- The 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
- An 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

Public *perception/behaviour change measures*:

Improvements in the rating in City Voice survey about individual and community readiness following a major weather event (baseline established from 43rd City Voice)

On an annual basis we will monitor the following *outcomes measures*:

- A reduction in the 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)
- A reduction in community facilities closures due to severe weather
- A reduction in the cost of damages due to severe weather incidents
- Increase in property level protection
- 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 raise awareness and to identify and persuade key people to become champions for their community. In so doing, we expect these individuals 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.
- Raise awareness of the resources, organisations and support that exists. This is in response to the feedback about the need for information and local knowledge which can be accessed in an emergency exist
- Community visits to raise awareness and generate interest in participation
- 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.
- Identify and establish the role of community champions

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:

Dawn Shultz, Emergency Planning Officer, ACC – Project Lead (new in post)

Andy Buchan, SFRS - Interim Project Lead

Graham Robertson, Civil Contingency Office, SFRS

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 Robertston to nominate from Flooding Team, ACC

Ross Greenhill, Coastguard

Colin Gray, Regional Emergency Planning Officer (TBC)

Ann Wakefield, Public representative and member of Culter Resilience Partnership

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

Project Stage	Actions	Timescale
Getting Started (Project Score 1-3)	We will organise session(s) at the Community Council Forum with the aim of setting up community resilience groups. We will involve relevant expert speakers and our community champions to convince Community Councils that this is necessary and to gain their support.	August 2019
Designing and Testing Changes (Project Score 4-7)	When there is sufficient participation and planning is complete, we will undertake a desktop and simulation exercise to test out the effectiveness of training, community response and public sector involvement.	This will begin in January 2020 and complete all areas by April 2020
Implementing and sustaining changes that demonstrate improvement (Project Score 7-10)	When groups are established, we will share good practice from successful resilience partnerships, including the framework developed by Culter. We will also put together a tailored package of support from public sector/emergency services.	This will be occurring continuously from January 2020
Spreading Changes (Project Score 9-10)	We will continue to keep in touch 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.	May 2020