



**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EMERGENCY PLANNING UNIT**

Committee Report

Meeting : CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE : 7 JULY 2008

Subject : VULNERABILITY WORKSHOP ON 13 MARCH 2008

Report of the Chief Emergency Planning Officer

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to feedback on key issues raised as result of the Northumbria Vulnerability Workshop held on 13 March 2008 which was introduced by Cllr Joanne Bell.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In November 2007, the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum Public Communications Group approached Tyne and Wear Emergency Planning Unit for support in addressing issues relating to Vulnerability, Public Warning and Informing and Contingency Planning.
- 2.2 After initial consultations, it was decided that the best action would be to run a workshop where experts in each field would come together and identify issues that needed to be taken forward. A planning group was formed with representatives from the EPU, local authorities, health agencies, police and voluntary agencies.

3 THE WORKSHOP

- 3.1 The aim of the workshop was to enhance planning, response and recovery within the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum area for personal vulnerability arising from major emergencies, by allowing delegates to:
- To identify people who may experience vulnerability in an emergency situation
 - To create agreed planning assumptions and scenarios
 - To identify the information needed by Cat 1 and 2 responders for planning, response and recovery
 - To establish information sharing protocols between all agencies
 - To establish work streams that will create and publish appropriate Warning and Informing messages

- To create appropriate training opportunities for Cat 1 and 2 responders and other groups to enhance current practice in planning, response and recovery
- 3.2 The workshop was hosted by Tyne and Wear FRS and facilitated by David Hay from the Regional Resilience Team. Roy Taylor from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (one of the leading contributors to the national vulnerability work stream) also spoke at the event.
- 3.3 The day allowed pre-planned multi agency tables to work through a series of questions. These included:
- To develop a definition of vulnerability that was agreed by the members of their group;
 - Using this definition of vulnerability to discuss issues relating to a short flooding scenario; and
 - Specifically groups were asked to tackle questions relating to both their agency and (where appropriate) the client group they supported.
- 3.4 A wide range of agencies attended the event. As well as the emergency services, the EPU and local authorities, there were also representatives from health, the voluntary sector and some charitable and community organisations who represent specific client groups, such as Gypsies and Travellers representatives and the Strategic Migration Partnership.
- 3.4 Groups were asked to discuss issues arising from a given scenario which involved evacuation from homes arising from flooding and the specific implications on individuals that group members considered would be more vulnerable in an emergency based around their client groups.

4 FURTHER PLANNING

- 4.1 Feedback from the session was collected and has been used alongside the information contained in the Vulnerability Guidance (published by the Cabinet Office only a few days before the workshop took place) to form the basis of a strategy paper due to be presented to the Local Resilience Forum on 25 June 2008.
- 4.2 The strategy outlines suggestions for a new group to be established within Northumbria Local Resilience Forum which will take the issues identified from the workshop and from national guidance forward. The group (yet to be formally named) will broadly consist of local authorities, health agencies, utilities providers, Northumbria Police and FRS. An officer from TWEPU will also support the work of the group.

5 CONCLUSION

3.5 The Strategy is designed to provide a strategic context within which individual responding agencies can undertake planning activities. The group will provide:

- A co-ordinated approach to information management
- A central point of contact with community based organisations
- Training links between community organisations and the established resilience community
- Expertise in developing appropriate warning and informing/community resilience activities
- Links between statutory agencies and the community sector through consultation

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note this report and receive future reports as this important work develops within Tyne and Wear and the Local Resilience Forum.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers held in the EPU offices relate to the subject matter of the above report:-

Addressing Vulnerability Strategy Paper