

Setting up a Resilience Group Advice Note



Setting up a Resilience Group

Advice Note

You may want to set up a resilience group to co-ordinate your resilience activities; this can be as informal or as formal as you like. There may be benefits to having a formal structure but this will depend on what you want the group to do.

A resilience group will complement the work of the emergency services and other category one responders (such as the Council); they are not expected to do the work of the emergency services.

What do you want to do?

Establishing what the purpose of your group is will help you decide on how structured you need to be; it may be that your group will deal with one specific issue (for example Flooding) or it may deal with a range of issues including power outage and any other emergency.

Once the purpose is established you should consider what the main aims of the group are for example you may want to be a preventative group, supply information to your community, provide a welfare hub, offer a buddy system etc.

Having a team to drive the group is helpful, this does not have to be a large team of people but ideally, they will have the commitment to deliver the group's aims with the help of volunteers.

What are the risks?

Identifying the risks your community might face is key to the group's success. The risks can be accessed here [sfrs-north-community-risk-register-2022-digital.pdf \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/frs-north-community-risk-register-2022-digital.pdf)

Developing a risk assessment is a good way of shaping your thinking about what you can do to help your community, and how. A risk assessment would also be the backbone of an emergency plan.

Ready Scotland has some advice for the questions Community Resilience Groups can ask themselves to be effective [Community Resilience Checklist | Ready Scotland](#)

Producing a plan

Producing a plan can be useful, particularly where the aims of your group are multi-faceted or there is the potential for people to operate the plan who have had little or no involvement.

Detailed guidance on developing a plan can be found here [Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Plan Advice Note](#)

Your plan may identify you need specific equipment or skills; prior to purchasing equipment it would be wise to undertake a skills and equipment audit to see what is already available in your community. This will not only save you money and possibly time but engages additional people, in your community, with your plan.

The structure of your group may be important for funding if you need this, as often there is a need for a group to be constituted and have a bank account. Another option may be to align the group with a constituted group such as a Community Council who can act as an overarching group and has a bank account to facilitate funding. A resilience group does not have to be a formal structure and can equally be a few people who operate together.

Communicating the plan

If an emergency plan is developed by the Resilience Group, it is worth taking a moment to think about how that plan might be communicated and with whom. The volunteers linked to the group and who will be carrying out the plan will need to know what the broad aims are as well as the role they are expected to play 'on the day'

The community will also need to know what the plan is delivering so they know what may be provided for them, where to go to get information and if there is a community hub where this is and when it will open.

It is also helpful to share your plan and contact details with the Council so know what you are hoping to provide in an emergency situation; this information can then be shared with other category one responders such as the Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Service etc. if appropriate. It will not be presumed your group has activated unless contact is made to confirm this.