



2024/2025 Annual Report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF)



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Welcome

from CPLRF Chair Matt Gladstone



Thankfully major emergencies are rare but when they do happen they can have devastating impacts. Although we can't prevent emergencies from happening, we can plan ahead to reduce the impact they are able to have on us, our homes, our businesses and communities.

Flooding, severe weather, infectious disease and major power outages are just some of the types of emergency that could happen in your area.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF), is made up of emergency services, local authorities, health services, the military and other supporting agencies. By working together in emergency situations they are able to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from major incidents and emergencies.



The National Risk Register

(<https://tinyurl.com/5xyv38m5>)



Community Risk Register

(<https://tinyurl.com/37e2k5wu>)

Both the national and local risk registers ensure we are focusing on those emergencies that are most likely to happen in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They empower us to deal with incidents as they arise, because we are planning in advance.

CPLRF is led by commanders of all levels of seniority, and all partners are legally required and responsible for working together to oversee the Community Risk Register for our county.

This annual report for 2024/2025 outlines our achievements and the challenges we have faced over the past year. It also includes a brief look at our ongoing work and plans for the next 12 months.

We have responded to many live operational incidents in the past year as detailed further in this document.

We have also held 17 live and tabletop exercises between January 2024 and March 2025 to help us to get a better understanding of the challenges we will face in specific emergency situations and test our emergency plans to ensure they meet the requirements needed to mitigate risk.

Our priority will always be keeping our communities safe, including residents, businesses and visitors. It is vital that our cities, towns, villages and rural areas are as prepared as they can be for the diverse and changing risks and challenges we face today. CPLRF is here to help all our communities be better prepared.

Matt Gladstone
Chair of CPLRF

**For more information about Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Local Resilience Forum please visit www.cppprepared.org.uk**

What we do

The CPLRF assesses the risks for our whole geographical area. It plans for different types of emergencies and arranges and takes part in training exercises to test our plans. The CPLRF also provides information, advice, and assistance to residents, businesses, community groups and the voluntary sector to help them better prepare for emergencies.

The forum is made up of organisations that are split into two categories. Category 1 responders are those organisations who will be the first to attend to emergencies. That includes the 'blue light' emergency services

i.e police, fire, ambulance as well as hospitals, health services and local authorities.

Category 2 responders are those organisations that will support the Category 1 responders such as the Health and Safety Executive and transport and utility companies and they are known as the 'co-operating bodies'. They are less likely to be involved in the heart of planning but will be heavily involved in incidents that affect their work.

A big part of their role is co-operating and sharing relevant information with other Category 1 and 2 responders.

Category 1 responders

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service



Cambridgeshire Constabulary



East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust



Cambridgeshire County Council



Peterborough City Council



Cambridge City Council



East Cambridgeshire District Council



Fenland District Council



Huntingdonshire District Council



South Cambridgeshire District Council



Environment Agency



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board



British Transport Police



Category 2 responders

UK Power Networks		Greater Anglia Railways	
National Grid PLC		LNER (London North Eastern Railway)	
CADENT		National Highways	
Anglian Water		Cambridge International Airport	
Cambridge Water		Harbour Authorities	
BT		Health and Safety Executive	
Govia ThamesLink Railway		Met Office	
Network Rail			

Voluntary Community Sector agencies that work closely with CPLRF

Beds & Cambs 4X4 Response	
Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue (CamSAR)	
British Red Cross	



Our vision

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF) was created on the passing of the Civil Contingencies Act (2004). It requires organisations who are responsible for preparing for, responding to and recovering from incidents to routinely work together to prepare Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for emergencies.



The strategic vision of the CPLRF is:

"To create a safer Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by having well-trained, well-equipped, and well-led people who can effectively, efficiently and legitimately apply a risk-based approach to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents, (including major ones), that have the potential to adversely affect 'situation-normal.'"

How we operate

CPLRF operates at both a strategic and tactical level.

The CPLRF chair leads the Strategic Board which brings together representatives from the most senior level of management across each responder agency. Together they agree on a joint understanding of risks, co-ordination, information sharing and co-operation, in order that multi-agency response and recovery is:

- **Pre-planned.**
- **Tested to mitigate risks.**
- **Community focused.**
- **Cost effective.**
- **Flexible and able to adapt to changing situations and environments.**

Also represented at the strategic level is the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local

Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP). This is the strategic forum within the CPLRF for local health and social care partners.

The Tactical Business Group (TBG) reports into the Strategic Board and oversees the partnership working groups, task and finish groups and other working groups.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP)

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) is the strategic forum within the CPLRF for local health and social care partners to ensure we have a resilient and responsive local health community across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It authorises plans and commits resources on behalf of their organisations for health emergency preparedness, resilience

and response in their area and feeds directly into the wider CPLRF Strategic and Tactical Groups on behalf of those health partners..

CPLRF Tactical Business Group (TBG)

The TBG is made up of tactical managers and leaders from the responder organisations who come together to identify the workstreams of the task and finish and working groups to make sure Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is prepared for emergencies.

The TBG is responsible for developing and maintaining a coherent set of multi-agency emergency plans that support each individual agency’s business continuity plans to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency response to emergencies that avoids confusion and duplication of efforts. Each plan is based on a shared and common understanding of the CPLRF Community Risk Register and associated planning assumptions.

For more information on risks in this area visit www.cppprepared.org.uk/risks.

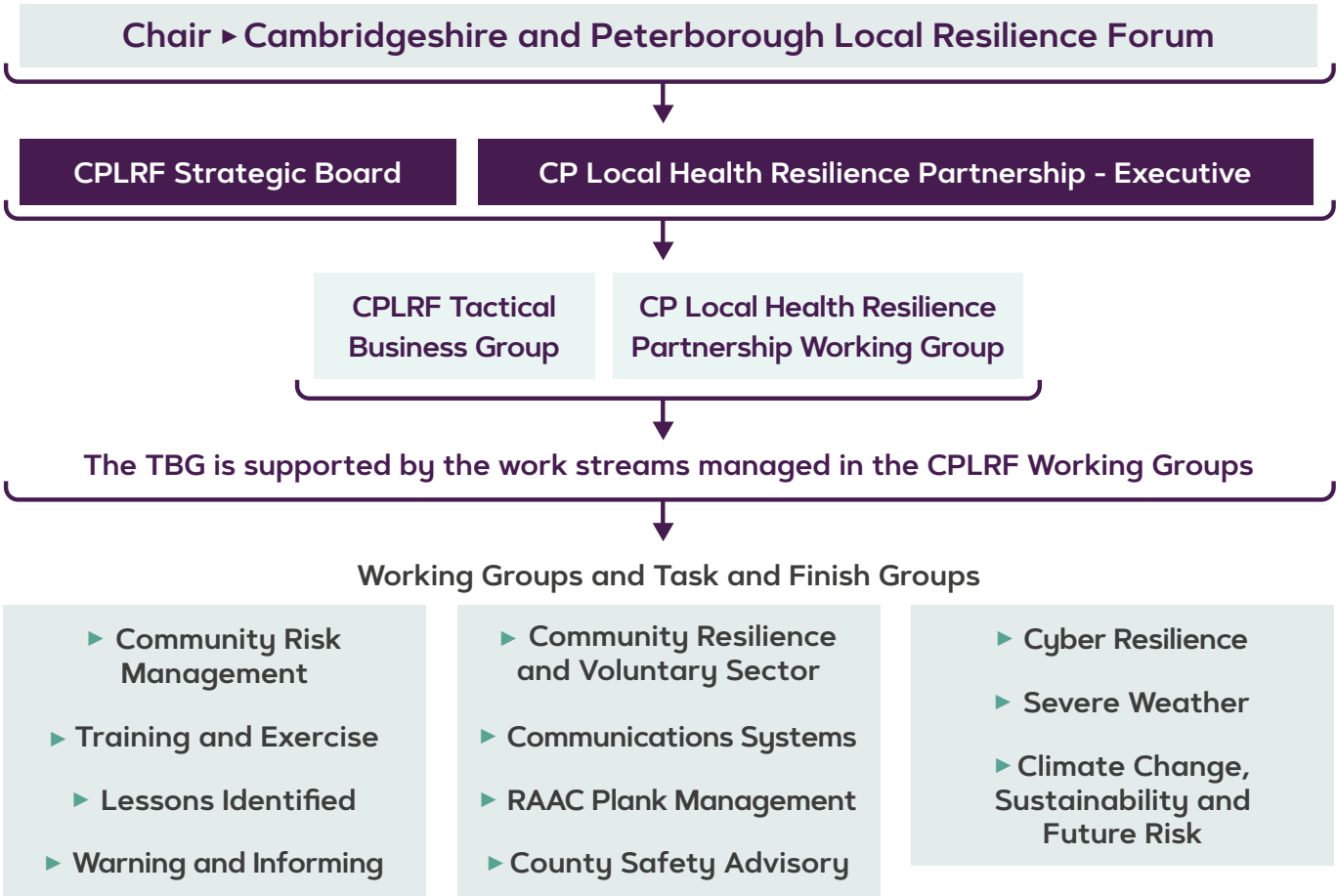
CPLRF Working Groups

There are nine working groups currently operating within the CPLRF which focus on different areas of CPLRF business.

The groups are:
Community Risk Management; Training and Exercise; Lessons Identified; Community Resilience and Voluntary Sector (being stood back up in January 2026); Warning and Informing; Communications Systems; RAAC Plank Management; County Safety Advisory Group and Severe Weather.

Business Plan

CPLRF works to a three-year business plan and work programme which outlines its jointly agreed strategic objectives and governance arrangements. It provides an organisational framework for the co-ordination and co-operation of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough responder agencies.



Incidents and Emergencies 2024 to 2025



April 2024

Cyber incident. A local healthcare provider was affected by a cyber security incident. A Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) was called to inform partners, manage consequences and prevent wider impacts.



June 2024

Stricken vessel incident (Baltic Arrow), River Nene, Wisbech. A cargo vessel grounded in the River Nene near to the Port of Wisbech blocking the entire waterway. Responders were also concerned the vessel could cause environmental pollution if it was structurally damaged.



Emergency services, the Environment Agency, Port of Wisbech Harbour Master and Fenland District Council all came together to manage the implications. The vessel was re-floated without any environmental damage and continued its course.

The incident was subject to investigation by the Maritime Accident Investigation Branch.



July 2024

Early prison release (Partnership planning).

Following the Government announcement indicating the early release of some prisoners to relieve overcrowding of the prison estate, a series of Strategic and Tactical Assessment Meetings were held to manage the expected increased demand on local services, probation and supporting agencies. This early stand up of partners prevented undue disruption when the expected, managed, early release of prisoners into the community occurred in the autumn.



July 2024

Global IT outage. An IT system outage occurred affecting selected companies and servers on a worldwide basis. Local partners were also affected, including education, NHS and pharmaceutical sectors. Tactical and Strategic Co-ordinating Groups were held to manage consequences and share information.



August 2024

National civil unrest following Southport incident. Following the tragic attack at a dance school in Southport and the resulting national disorder, SCG and TCG partnership

meetings were held, led by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Additional visible resourcing and community reassurance processes were put in place and fortunately impacts across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were minimal.



September / October 2024

Flooding (Brampton / Fen Drayton). An autumn of prolonged, heavy rainfall led to countywide flooding, particularly affecting the residents and road networks in parts of Brampton and Fen Drayton.



Tactical and Strategic Co-ordinating Meetings were held to manage the ongoing situation, with the Environment Agency and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service leading the response, assisted by other partners, including voluntary agencies.

November 2024

Flooding River Nene. Further rainfall on already saturated land in the north of the county saw additional localised flooding of

the River Nene, also crossing borders into Northamptonshire.

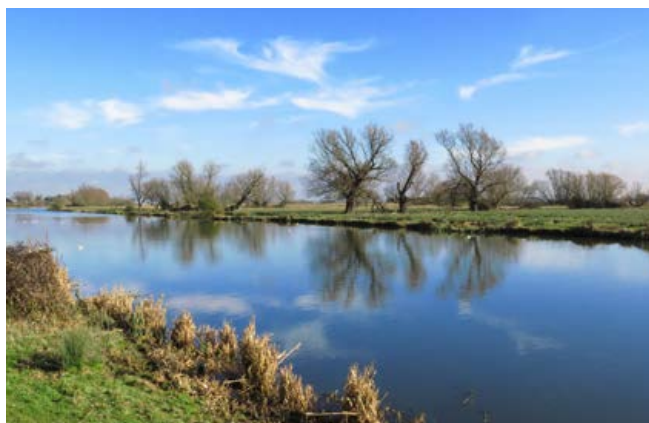
December 2024

High winds. A precautionary Severe Weather Teleconference (SWT) was held involving all relevant partners to prepare for expected high winds and potential structural damage caused by a predicted winter storm. Emergency services and local authorities were readied to support as required and ensure contingency measures in place.



March 2025

Chemical spill, Cambridge. Following the accidental spill of a hazardous substance within a research laboratory, causing minor injury to staff, specialist and protected emergency responders were dispatched to the scene and a TCG convened. Detection, Identification, and Monitoring (DIM) of the site was undertaken to manage and mitigate any potential wider health impacts, whilst the clean-up and recovery processes were undertaken.



Our achievements

Multi-Agency Information Cells (MAIC)

Managing information to ensure our response to emergencies, major incidents and pre-planned events is always a challenge for all responder organisations.

We all have a duty to share information under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. However, the methods used to share information can be complex. So, in 2024 we fully embedded the Multi-Agency Information Cell (MAIC) into our emergency response structure.

Those involved in the MAIC are required to gather information about an incident, evaluate, filter and analyse that information and then communicate that information within their own and other relevant organisations. The MAIC also presents this information to the strategic and tactical groups who use it as a basis to formulate strategy and make informed decisions.

We first used a prolonged MAIC structure during the Covid-19 pandemic to collate, process and disseminate the many sources of specialist information which was being fed to partners. Since then, we have successfully convened MAICs on a routine basis. MAICs are especially useful during rising-tide type incidents such as pandemic, flooding and other weather-related incidents.

Building Resilience Together Programme

In January 2023, CPLRF successfully applied for pilot funding from Building Resilience

Together. A partnership was established to set up local community resilience hubs to help local communities.

Our pilot projects were delivered in two areas – St Ives and Alconbury. Recent risk assessments, conducted by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, highlighted that rising temperatures are likely to bring intensified flooding, severe droughts, biodiversity loss, and drastic disruptions to agriculture.

Flooding is the main challenge for both the town of St Ives and the village of Alconbury.

Alconbury has an extensive history of flooding. In 1998 more than 100 properties flooded and in the winter of 2020/21 over 75 properties were flooded. Records show properties also flooded in October 1987, November 2000, and March 2016.

Since the pandemic the numbers of isolated people, including the elderly has increased. These residents are more at risk when flooding occurs.

The Building Resilience Together project enabled the local flood action group to work in a more co-ordinated way both with residents and the CPLRF. A small group of active volunteers was established to raise awareness of what local communities can do to become more resilient if they get the right support and guidance. In St. Ives there are currently two established community Emergency Liaison Points (ELP) and Emergency Information Points and one ELP in Alconbury.



There are plans to roll out further ELPs in the coming year operating like those in St Ives and Alconbury. In these two places established flood groups and local community stakeholders develop the offer they already have in place and support further engagement in their communities.

This local approach helps us to identify what 'Community Resilience' looks like in different communities. In one area a local businessman has kindly offered to provide a dedicated generator when needed.

We are currently investigating opportunities to expand the ELP model and further our Community Resilience workstreams across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, working with our partners, voluntary sector representatives and local key community stakeholders.

The CPLRF Briefing Series

All public authorities have their own structures, acronyms and ways of working specific to their type of organisation which can make it extremely challenging when working with multiple organisations in an emergency to achieve a multi-agency approach.

As part of our commitment to improving partnership working and communication between agencies in peace times and to enhance our multi-agency approach in times of crisis, we introduced the CPLRF Briefing Series events in October 2024. The series brings together key personnel to share information and knowledge about their business, allow for networking and opportunities for all partners to get to know



their counterparts and understand how to work better together in an incident.

Health services in Cambridgeshire including Hospital Trusts, NHS England, the Integrated Care Board and other health services came together in October 2024 to brief partners

regarding the roles and responsibilities of each of their organisations, improving knowledge and collaboration opportunities. The session was incredibly well attended by CPLRF member organisations.

This led to the launch of the wider briefing series in 2025. Voluntary sector partners hosted a fantastic session in February with presentations from operational voluntary sector response colleagues, our local pilot areas for ELPs and our wider voluntary sector partners. It resulted in a huge range of ideas to bring together and formalise into our Community Resilience Planning into 2026 and beyond. Future sessions are planned with Environment Agency regarding flooding and a briefing on the JESIP principles of working together in times of emergency.

There was also a further emergency services led briefing in July which re-examined the lessons learned at Grenfell Tower, with input from key personnel.



Training and exercises

It is vital we are prepared for all types of serious or major emergencies. From prolonged power outages over large geographical areas to major flooding incidents, plane, rail or road crashes to global or national pandemics, we have plans ready to respond to a whole host of different situations.

To ensure plans are effective in real life situations, every year all partner organisations take part in training and exercising to test our responses to a wide range of scenarios.

Sometimes these are tabletop exercises - discussion-based sessions where participants work through a simulated emergency or crisis as if it is happening and review and discuss their roles and responses to it. These tabletop events are an opportunity to analyse procedures and identify areas for improvement. It allows agencies to come together and learn and refine our emergency responses in a challenging but safe environment.

CPLRF agencies also take part in live play exercises which reconstruct actual emergencies under safe conditions, testing plans in a more realistic and time pressured situation.

Over the next four pages you can read about training and exercise events in 2024/2025.



January 2024

Our first major exercise of 2024 (Exercise Willow) tested our plans for responding to a national, wide area power outage, examining



not only our response as a county but also how we would work together with neighbouring counties. This tabletop exercise was held locally at Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters. The tabletop scenario centred around a sudden power outage, affecting all areas of England, Wales and Scotland. The exercise resulted in several key lessons, not least improving the ability to communicate when traditional methods have been lost, which were progressed via the CPLRF lessons identified group to ensure they were embedded.

The next local tabletop exercise of the year was testing our existing CPLRF plan for a national fuel shortage. Category 1 and some Category 2 responders worked through a



simulated scenario as to how we would respond in Cambridgeshire. Again, several key learning points were identified in respect of local business continuity preparedness.



February

Health professionals came together to test plans to respond to a RAAC plank emergency.

RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) planks are a lightweight concrete building material used in many NHS hospitals from the 1950s to the 1990s. Recently there have been concerns about its durability and potential to fail. This exercise looked at how health services would need to respond, support and re-organise if there was a RAAC failure in a health building in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough.

Senior leaders from each of the Category 1 organisations also undertook specialist training on leading the county's emergency response and working together effectively.

Finally, we tested our plans to respond to potential flooding incidents from a small reservoir failure in the county.

March

Emergency services carried out a tabletop exercise to test plans to deal with emergency situations on the Guided Busway. This was a localised exercise focused on the south of the county and involving bus operators, local highways and emergency services.

April

In preparation for the beginning of airshow season, Exercise Cape Vulture was a live play exercise held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford and forms part of their annual re-licensing process to operate public air displays. Blue light emergency services in partnership with Duxford staff constructed a plane crash as a live exercise.

Rest Centres are a vital resource

in emergency situations when flooding, major fires or other incidents mean homes need to be evacuated quickly. All CPLRF member organisations came together to test our plans for setting up and supporting rest centres. From this exercise we tackled the challenges posed by a rapid stand up and resourcing of a rest centre, along with provision of supporting functions, including a Friends and Family Reception Centre and Survivor Reception Centre.

May

Twenty-five organisations from across Cambridgeshire took part in an awareness session at a Tactical Business Group meeting regarding our Loss of Utilities plan written by Cadent, UKPN, Anglian Water and South Staffs Water. The session provided an overview of how utilities companies would respond to day-to-day interruptions in utility supplies.

Also in May, we tested our plans for a major chemical incident. There are several premises in Cambridgeshire where particularly hazardous chemicals are stored and are

subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) legislation. It is therefore vital that companies and CPLRF test our plans. We held an exercise at one of these business premises in May using simulated scenarios to put plans and procedures to the test. This allows response procedures to be fine-tuned, minimising any future risk to employees and the local community.





There was also a mass facility and mortuary provision plan exercise to revisit our plans for dealing with large numbers of fatalities in the event of another pandemic or a catastrophic event such as a plane crash. It is important that we continually test these plans to ensure we can mobilise large facilities at short notice.

Finally, in May we held our first Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) awareness training session of the year. Put simply, JESIP principles set out a standard approach to multi-agency working, giving organisations a framework to improve responses to major incidents and put people at the heart of every response. Applying simple principles for joint working are particularly important in the early stages of any incident, when clear, robust decisions and actions need to be taken with minimum delay, often in a rapidly changing environment.



June

In June, members of the CPLRF joined with other emergency responders on a two-day national counter terrorism live exercise to test the preparedness of police command and control structures and joint working between emergency services during a marauding terrorist attack incident.



September

Colleagues who work in communications across all the CPLRF agencies came together to test plans on how we would communicate with each other and with residents, customers and stakeholders during a major power outage if there was no access to usual

communications channels. As a result, it prompted communication representatives to re-consider their approach to internal and public communication strategies when usual media channels are no longer working.



October

Our second major live exercise took place at Marshalls City Airport in Cambridge where responders from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough took part in a large-scale live simulation of a military plane crash and fuel leak. The first phase involved a large live play element involving emergency services and staff from Marshalls, also using volunteers from a local College, as casualties.



The second phase involved the holding of a Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG) where all partners come together to respond and recover from the incident. This included police, fire, ambulance, health partners, Environment Agency, local authorities and Marshalls staff.



November

Exercise Koala tested our plans for a chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear or hazardous materials incident. Responders came together for the exercise, in Peterborough, which explored both a live play and tabletop scenario involving a fire and release of chemicals in a tower block near to a major sporting venue on a match day.

Also in November, regional and local partners tested our plans covering the practical and ceremonial response to any future death of a principal member of the Royal Family.



December

The last event of the year was the second of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) command awareness training session.

January 2025

Cambridgeshire County Council led an information sharing and tabletop exercise regarding the CPLRF Community Recovery Plan. This explored the important transition from the response phase into recovery from a major incident. The need to get 'community recovery' right cannot be underestimated as we have witnessed during recent high-profile tragedies. (i.e. Grenfell)



February

CPLRF hosted an inaugural Multi-Agency Information Cell (MAIC) manager course at Huntingdon Fire Station. Several partners were trained to be able to lead and manage a future MAIC in support of an incident response and recovery.

CPLRF Voluntary Sector partners (including British Red Cross, 4x4 Response, CAMSAR) delivered an all-partner briefing session, enlightening statutory partners in respect of their invaluable capability and capacity to enhance the management of an incident.



2025 and beyond

Testing Our Plans

Every year we will continue to test all our jointly agreed planned responses to all the most likely emergencies to happen in our area.

We will organise a planned programme of scenarios and live exercises, assisting us to learn lessons, update and improve our responses.

Training

We will continue to provide training to strategic and tactical leaders, ensuring those who will be at the helm in leading our emergency response have the latest knowledge, skills and experience to confidently lead us during response and into recovery from a significant incident.

Tactical and Strategic Command Development days are scheduled in 2025 and these will be held annually to allow continual development for partner agencies' key members of staff on-call in an emergency.

Community Resilience

There has never been a greater need for communities to come together to build their resilience and help make their own neighbourhoods more resilient.

In 2025 we will aim to work closer with more communities to help build their understanding of what being prepared and community resilience means to them personally and their local areas.

Communications

We will further develop our website and communication channels to make it easier for our residents and businesses to access the information that they need to take steps to make their own homes, families, businesses and community groups better prepared for emergencies.

We will be launching an Emergency Plan for households to help people think about what they would need in an emergency. We will also be holding a Cyber Awareness Day for local businesses, charities and faith groups to help them build their cyber resilience.

Voluntary organisations and faith groups provide vital support

Sometimes, emergencies require more resources than our emergency services can offer because of the wraparound support that is required which is outside of the scope of both their core life-saving work and the recovery work provided by local authorities and other local responders.

The voluntary sector has an important role to play in supporting police, fire, ambulance, local authorities and other agencies in the planning for, response to and recovery from many emergencies.

CPLRF recognises the huge value of the voluntary and community sector and intends to expand our relationships over the coming years. We intend to embed the voluntary sector into our core business to support our communities to build local community resilience.

The British Red Cross, Beds & Cambs 4X4 Response, Cambridgeshire Lowland Search and Rescue (CAMSAR) and other relevant

voluntary and faith groups are key members of our working groups, training and exercising to test emergency plans and at strategic and tactical co-ordinating groups for ongoing incidents.

In February 2025 our voluntary sector briefing series event clearly demonstrated the impressive capability of our voluntary partners. Cambridgeshire SAR (CAMSAR), Beds & Cambs 4x4 Response, the British Red Cross and those involved with the Emergency Liaison Points (ELPs) in Alconbury and St Ives came together with other voluntary sector partners to discuss a plan to strengthen involvement. The ELPs pilot scheme aims to give local people a local point of contact to seek or offer help during an emergency, providing clear information on what is happening, helping people to stay safe and providing a place to coordinate community resources during a major incident.



To find out more about these organisations and for more information please visit the below useful links



CAMSAR
www.camsar.org



Beds & Cambs 4X4 Response
www.bc4x4r.org



The British Red Cross
www.redcross.org.uk



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