

Joint Resilience Committee

15th June 2007

Progress Report

Introduction

Whilst only 6 weeks has elapsed since the last meeting of this Committee, steady progress has been made against the Resilience and Emergency Planning Service Plan for both Authorities, as presented to the last meeting. Set out below is a brief summary of this progress.

1. Partnerships

Counter Terrorism Security Advisers are currently co-ordinating and facilitating seminars which form part of a National Counter Terrorist initiative under the headline banner of **Project 'ARGUS'**. These events are to be held in the major towns and cities in the South Wales Police force area over the forthcoming 12 months as part of a much wider protective security programme for 'Crowded Places'. An event in Swansea has been scheduled for the 21st June and discussions are taking place in Neath Port Talbot to agree a suitable date, determining the steps to ensure they become high profile and receive an appropriate level of attendance.

Project 'ARGUS' is a National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) initiative, supported by the British Council of Shopping Centres (BCSC), which explores ways to aid Shopping Centres in planning to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack and to mitigate the effects of any such incident. The project seeks to highlight the vital part Shopping Centre Managers, Facilities staff and Store Employees play in the UK Counter Terrorism Strategy

Terrorist attacks in the UK are a real and serious danger. Crowded places, including Shopping Centres, are assessed as possibly featuring in the attack plans of terrorist organisations, as they are usually locations with limited protective security measures thereby presenting the potential for mass casualties and severe disruption to businesses.

2. Local Authority Business Continuity Plans

Work with Directorates is ongoing in both Councils to deliver initial draft Business Continuity Plans (BCPs). Before these plans can be drawn up the critical services needed to be agreed in order for key officers to undertake what is known as a Business Impact Analysis (BIA). In the last six weeks the officers within the JRU have completed this first piece of

work and a series of workshops and team meetings are well underway in a majority of areas.

Neath Port Talbot

- Chief Executive's Directorate have completed all their draft BCPs and are working towards their final versions which are due for completion in September.
- Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning Directorate, together with Finance & Corporate Services and Environment Directorates are in the process of setting up workshops to carry out a BIA and this work should be completed by July.
- Social Services, Health and Housing Directorate is also in the process of setting up workshops to carry out a BIA except for the Homecare Service who have completed their initial BCP and are working towards their final version.

Swansea

- Chief Executive's Directorate, Education and Social Services are in the process of setting up workshops to carry out a BIA and this work is due to be completed by July.
- Performance, Environment, Regeneration and Housing have all but completed their BIA and most of their BCPs. These are due for completion by August.

3. Specialist Plans

Pandemic Flu

- A separate Briefing Paper is being prepared for Members' information – this will be presented at the meeting.

Managing Crises in School plans

- A working group has been set up to look at an all-encompassing plan for schools which will assist head teachers, staff, pupils and Governing Bodies during and after an emergency arising. The plan is intended to help responsible officers maintain critical services when the School is under immense pressure all the way through the recovery period and on to the resumption of relative stability. The Core Team has representatives from the Education services in both Councils who have been working closely under the guidance and support of the JRU on this essential piece of work. A first draft has now been produced in readiness for a meeting with head teachers on the 7th July.

Rest Centre Plan

- This has now been finalised and will be circulated to all key contributors for consultation by the end of June.

Emergency Control Centre Plan

- This plan has been revisited and is currently being tested by key personnel in both Councils. The intention with the plan is to mirror as far as is practically possible the systems, processes and structures both Council's need to have in place to successfully operate an Emergency Control Centre in the event of a major incident. This will allow both councils to become more resilient by offering an alternative location and familiar set up should one of the Centres becoming inaccessible for whatever reason.

4. Exercises

- A rest Centre exercise will be run in July this year.
- Exercise First Strike (On Avian Influenza) has been prepared for agreement by participants and due for exercising by September.

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