This is the second Annual Report of the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (SYLRF) since the restructure of the Forum in 2012.

Last year we invited Nottingham & Nottinghamshire LRF to undertake a peer review of our structure and processes. The review provided confirmation of the collective delivery of our duties under the Civil Contingencies Act however we are certainly not complacent and will seek opportunities to develop learning and good practice. We are now in better shape to fulfil our obligations to the public of South Yorkshire. Nevertheless, the challenge for the future will be to maintain our standards despite the challenging financial climate we all face.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the partner organisations involved in SYLRF for their enthusiasm, effort and hard work in ensuring that the LRF can carry out its functions. Over the years, SYLRF partners have co-operated and worked together to plan for, and deal with major incidents and events, on behalf of the people of South Yorkshire. Over the past year the SYLRF has planned and responded to protests, industrial action, adverse weather and the Tour de France Grand Depart.

The Community Risk Register has been reviewed, giving access to information on potential risks posed to the population of South Yorkshire from events such as flooding and severe weather.

In order to keep you informed of our work on your behalf, our website has also undergone a refresh, and can be found at:

www.southyorkshireemergencies.co.uk

Please visit the website and find out more about the Local Resilience Forum, our work protecting the communities of South Yorkshire, and for advice on preparing your homes, businesses and communities in the event of an emergency.

David Crompton, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police,
Chair of the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum.
The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) brings together agencies with a significant role to play in responding to and recovering from emergencies. The LRF ensures effective delivery of those duties and requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The Business Management Group (BMG) is a tactical level multi agency management team reporting to the LRF strategic group on the delivery of objectives to achieve the LRF strategy.

In addition to the BMG’s individual objectives, the group set and monitor objectives of the five LRF sub groups, the Chairs of which have each prepared their individual reports which follow.

Further, various task and finish groups are formed when a bespoke piece of work on single issue tasks needs to be undertaken. Over the past year, task groups have reported on a review of incident command processes, emergency mortuary plans and a project group is currently developing community resilience with work being undertaken in Sheffield and Doncaster. Complementing the community resilience group, the LRF has worked with uniformed youth groups to develop their awareness and capability to work alongside responders and the community during civil emergencies. Over eighty young people participated in the project over the summer which culminated in a live flooding scenario exercise in September. The team award was presented to South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue cadets with individual certificates presented to all the young people participating in the programme.

The LRF has coordinated planning and response in relation to a broad range of incidents including demonstrations, industrial action, sporting events and the UKIP conference. The largest event was the Tour de France Grand Depart which attracted significant numbers of spectators to South Yorkshire to enjoy the sporting spectacle. A significant amount of work went into all the multi agency incidents to ensure all events passed by as peacefully and with as little impact as possible on the citizens of South Yorkshire.

Last year’s Gold Symposium theme was Community Resilience which assisted agencies to understand how to work with communities assisting them to become better prepared when civil emergencies occur which built on our work with the British Red Cross and the voluntary sector.

As the LRF prepared to participate in a national exercise assessing our response to a pandemic influenza scenario, work was diverted to consider our response to the Ebola outbreak. A working group was very quickly assembled to consider our capability to respond to an Ebola case in accordance with national guidelines in the unlikely event that should occur. The pandemic influenza exercise will now take place later this year.
The peer review undertaken by Nottingham & Nottinghamshire LRF was an extremely beneficial process in assessing our effectiveness to coordinate response and recovery arrangements within the context of increasing public sector finance restraints. A number of recommendations were made and have been acted upon.

The LRF participated in the national capabilities survey, a bi-annual process to assess our preparedness against a number of capabilities including Business Continuity, Evacuation and Shelter, Flooding, Mass Casualties, Resilient Telecommunications and Warning and Informing. The full report of the national survey is awaited however interim results confirm our preparedness but we will seek every opportunity over the next year to work with other LRF’s in enhancing our capability.

Looking forward, the South Yorkshire LRF will be seeking to develop collaboration with other LRFs and our annual symposium will focus on Flooding with a strategic exercise towards the end of the year to validate our preparedness.
The aim of the Risk Management and Planning Group is to “generate and subsequently review on a regular basis on behalf of South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum a Community Risk Register to inform contingency planning arrangements”.

The Community Risk Register is based on national guidance and local knowledge and identifies circumstances, situations or events with the potential to lead to civil emergencies in South Yorkshire.

Specific individual risk assessments are then produced for each risk. These risk assessments are produced by ‘Risk Leads’, who are the most appropriate Local Resilience Forum partner based on the nature of the risk, and identify existing and additionally required preventative and mitigation measures/controls/capabilities and contingency plans.

The Community Risk Register then rates the risks to give a hierarchy but then importantly produces a list of relative risk priorities for management and planning thus ensuring that efforts to mitigate risks are proportionate and rational.

In May 2014 the Group submitted a revised Community Risk Register to the Local Resilience Forum. The Community Risk Register again highlighted that the highest risks in the county are pandemic flu, flooding and forest/moorland/wild fire. However, taking account of the work that has previously been carried out in relation to these risks, major coastal flooding (and the subsequent potential for people to be displaced from affected areas to South Yorkshire) was identified as the priority for risk management action.

The Community Risk Register is used as the basis for all other work within the Local Resilience Forum, making risk the foundation of resilience efforts in the county. Reflecting the ongoing nature of the work of the Group, a review of the register was started in summer 2014 and this will result in a revised Community Risk Register being submitted to the Local Resilience Forum in May 2015. The cycle will then recommence in summer 2015.

During 2014 the Group has been working with the Public Information and Media Group to produce a public version of the Community Risk Register to inform communities initially of the ‘top 10’ risks within the county and raise awareness of both how these are/would be addressed by the Local Resilience Forum and inform individuals and communities of the actions they can take to be better able to respond to civil emergencies.
The group is responsible for planning, organising & co-ordinating training & exercising needs, aligned to the Local Resilience Forum strategic priorities, based on the Community Risk Register, Current plans, new emerging risks or procedures & the Training Needs Analysis.

South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum’s preparedness in the response to & recovery from foreseeable emergencies is paramount to protecting the community & responders. This is captured in the Community Risk Register & drives our work. This section of the report summarises some of the previous year’s achievements & changes.

An annual training needs process, involving all Category 1 & 2 partners, the Military & Voluntary Sectors, is conducted to determine priorities & at which level training & exercising takes place. It will also determine the format for delivery e.g. live practical, tabletop, simulation or training input sessions.

This year saw extensive preparations, training & exercising for the Tour de France Grand Depart which began in our region, the route travelling through South Yorkshire. Stage 2 finished in Sheffield after travelling through rural areas of Barnsley & Sheffield and was covered by global television & radio. It was such a success that there will be an annual Tour de Yorkshire from 2015.

This year’s programme was disrupted by external factors which included industrial action by some partner’s staff and the national drive to prepare for the risk of an Ebola patient being identified in South Yorkshire, or travelling through the county to hospital for treatment. The exercises postponed have been re programmed. These included Exercise Cygnus a national flu exercise and Exercise Pulaski the response to a county wide wildfire.

The Local Resilience Forum undertook a peer review by Nottingham Resilience Forum, which identified high performance & it provided some minor opportunities to improve in training & exercising.

Other training undertaken was the annual strategic Gold Symposium, which focused on community resilience and Exercise Black Swan, in preparation for the Tour de France. Every exercise provides opportunities to learn through debriefing.

The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme training schedule continues which has now included all resilience partners.
The Public Information and Media Group has undergone a period of significant development due to changes in communications-lead roles at many of the Category One responder organisations. However, the group has, in 2014/15, continued to deliver its work programme, and to develop its future role and work programme.

LRF website – the new LRF website: [www.southyorkshireemergencies.co.uk](http://www.southyorkshireemergencies.co.uk) was launched in 2014 and is populated with up-to-date content. The intention is that the site remains relatively static, with basic information, linking to partner agencies and other sources of further information. However, the home page also auto-updates with the latest Twitter feeds from the agencies involved.

Communicating with the Public Plan – this new media protocol was written and agreed by the group in 2014, with an up-to-date contacts list added. The plan will be tested with a communications specific exercise in early 2015.

Winter preparedness – the group met to consider the communications needs in issuing winter preparedness advice for the 2014/15 season. This work is led by Local Authorities, who already have extensive arrangements for advising their residents – the media group’s work therefore centred on sharing and reinforcing each others’ existing messages, rather than duplicating existing work with a ‘central’ campaign. This approach to sharing resources and supporting each other will be the main way of working adopted by the group in the future.

Ebola – the group came together to plan its activity in the event of a confirmed case of Ebola within South Yorkshire. It is expected that in such a scenario, communications activity will be strongly led by the Department of Health and Public Health England, and detailed messages can only be developed once the specific circumstances of any such case are confirmed. However, group members have participated in related training exercises and stand ready to respond as required.

Incident activity – throughout the year there have been numerous emergency incidents which have required a multi-agency communications response. Relevant colleagues have worked together on incidents which have involved severe weather, evacuations, and the discovery of unexploded bombs.

A new work programme is being developed for implementation in 2015 and, as well as supporting and sharing individual partner activity, the group aims to come together to raise public awareness of key parts of the LRF’s community risk register.
South Yorkshire Humanitarian Assistance Group, Chaired by Rosalind McDonagh, Doncaster MBC

The group aims to “support the development and embedding of humanitarian assistance response and recovery capabilities within the Civil Contingencies arrangements of South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum.”

Humanitarian Assistance is defined as ‘those activities aimed at meeting the needs of people affected by emergencies. In particular this includes those elements of planning, training and exercising aimed at meeting people’s practical and emotional needs; response activities focussing on meeting people’s needs during and immediately after emergencies; and the coordination and provision of psychological and social aftercare for those affected in the weeks, months and years that follow’ (Dr Anne Eyre)

SY LRF has adopted this definition and sought to embed a culture of Humanitarian Assistance in emergency planning, training and response.

Humanitarian Assistance is embedded in plan preparation through the addition of Humanitarian Assistance considerations in the risk assessment process.

SY LRF embed Humanitarian Assistance in plan preparation by developing and using the South Yorkshire Humanitarian Assistance Assessment Guidance document which provides aspects to include in contingency plans including humanitarian impacts, needs, response arrangements, support and resources needed in the short, medium and longer term as a result of an emergency incident.

When training and exercising, Humanitarian Assistance objectives consider potential impacts on residents and how needs arising from the emergency will be supported.

SY LRF embeds Humanitarian Assistance in response and recovery arrangements seeking support from the working group in response to emergencies impacting on SY residents and communities.

Through 2015 and 2016 the SY LRF Humanitarian Assistance Group will continue to support the development and embedding of a Humanitarian Assistance culture within SY LRF and provide support to the Civil Contingencies Secretariat Humanitarian Assistance Policy Team in the 2015 review of existing Humanitarian Assistance Guidance.

The work of the sub group will be promoted at the Emergency Planning Society’s Human Aspects Professional Working Group Event in March 2015.
The Telecommunications Sub Group continues to follow the national guidance provided by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat to ensure that effective communications can be maintained between responders during an operational response. The provision of operational communications is key to ensuring that information can be shared between responding organisations and maintaining co-ordination.

Over the last year the TSG on behalf of the LRF has ensured Mobile Telephone Privileged Access Scheme (MTPAS) has been audited and kept up to date and the High Integrity Telecommunications System (HITS) has been tested on a regular basis. The testing has been completed by the South Yorkshire Police Contingency Planning Team on both a regional and national basis.

The group also continues to support interoperable communications with a focus on Airwave, this is the mobile communications network dedicated for the use by the emergency services in Great Britain. The work on interoperable communications also supports the doctrine being delivered via the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) and enables this to be cascaded across all responding organisations. This will be further enhanced over the coming months with a regular testing regime being introduced.

Members of the group have also participated in national events including presenting to an Electronic Group - Resilience and Response Group (EC-RRG) meeting about the role of TSGs. South Yorkshires TSG was also represented at the annual TSG symposium hosted in Newcastle in November 2014, the symposium enables updates to be cascaded together with sharing of best practice.

Looking forward the TSG intends to continue to ensure its guidance is tested; this will include the use of RAYNET (Radio Amateurs Emergency Network) to provide an additional layer of resilience. The TSG is also planning to review procedures on how the public can access its members in the event of a widespread loss of telecommunications.