

Community Resilience Plan

What is Community Resilience?

Community resilience is defined by the Scottish Government as:

“Communities and individuals harnessing resources and expertise to help themselves prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, in a way that complements the work of the emergency responders.”

A good Community Resilience Plan is based on a culture of preparedness, in which individuals, communities and organisations take responsibility to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

The following Top Tips offer guidance and recommendations on how best to create a Community Resilience Plan, to maximise the effectiveness of working with individuals, community groups, private sector businesses and voluntary organisations, and to help make communities more resilient.

Top Tips for Creating a Community Resilience Plan

- Recognise the need for the creation of a Community Resilience Plan or updating an existing Plan.
- Ensure community support is behind the Plan and involve them from the first step.
- Find a template to work from, such as the Kyle of Sutherland Community Resilience Plan or [Ready Scotland](#).
- Research what other communities have in place, there is no need to reinvent the wheel when information is already out there.
- Decide on which communities your Plan will cover. There are a lot of communities who are geographically close and it may make sense to have a Plan that covers more than one community. For example, if flooding happens in one community, the chances are it will affect neighbouring communities.
- Decide who to involve in the writing of your Plan. The following contacts are appropriate for Sutherland Communities in particular.
 - Members of the community (Most important)
 - Stephen Mardon, Highland Council Resilience Officer
 - Pamela Harvey, SSE, Customer Relationship Manager
 - Community Councils
 - Local anchor organisations (Development Trusts)
 - Potential funders, for example SSE (Fiona Morrison)
 - Voluntary Groups Sutherland
 - Highland Council, Sutherland Ward Manager, Phil Tomalin
 - Core Partners of Sutherland Community Partnership
 - Sutherland Care for People
 - Voluntary Groups Sutherland
 - Community hall committees

- Emergency services
- Set up monthly meetings to begin with to start and keep momentum going.
- Use local advertising to reach out to people for community assets – e.g. Northern Times, local magazines, Facebook.
- Create a Facebook page for your Community Resilience Group – use it for informal information sharing.
- Carry out research on and in the area – what weather patterns occur e.g. Met Office. Don't forget that community knowledge is extremely important.
- For the telephone tree, try and use a mixture of people spread out across the community you are covering.
- The main document will have personal numbers, you will need to get permission that their numbers can be shared with the emergency group and emergency services.
- If you are filling out the information, make sure to check all the information is correct.
- Ensure community hall committees and hotels are involved and agree to be part of your Resilience Plan for you to include them as Key Safe Locations. Find out if they have defibrillators and generators and or generator switchovers.
- Set up a Community Emergency Group – the group will be made up of individuals in the community to meet regularly to ensure the plan is updated.
- Identify the main coordinator within the Plan, ideally someone well known in the community. It will be their responsibility to activate the Plan should an emergency occur.
- Test the Plan – use small settlements within the plan as a pilot. For example, imagine or role play there is a snowstorm that blocks the entrance to a village, refer to the plan you have created to see how or if the plan will work in that situation.
- Publish the Plan using a variety of mediums – such as on a website and in a local newsletter. It is important for all members of the community to have access to the Plan and take into consideration that not everyone is online.

Developed by the Sutherland Adaptive and Collaborative Communities team, managed by the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and Sutherland Community Planning Partnership. Funded by the Aspiring Communities Fund from the Scottish Government and European Social Fund.

