

LONDON RESILIENCE



preparing for emergencies

IMPLEMENTING THE LONDON EMERGENCY PLANNING SEMINAR 2006 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This paper provides a final update to the London Disability Advisory Group on the action taken by the sub group to implement the London Emergency Planning Seminar 2006 recommendations.

2.0 SUB GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members of the Disability Advisory Group note the report;
- 2.2 That the Disability Advisory Group agrees that the strategic statements be disseminated to all partners to support their operational planning;
- 2.3 That the sub group having now completed its work be disbanded; and
- 2.4 That the Disability Advisory Group acknowledges the support provided by the Metropolitan Police Service Diversity and Citizen Focus Directorate.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 On 17 March 2006, the Metropolitan Police Authority funded a seminar called the London Emergency Planning Seminar (also referred to as the Resilience Conference). The key objectives of the seminar were:

- To work with disabled people to identify gaps in the Emergency Planning and to devise strategies to meet their needs;
- To devise communication strategies to inform London's disabled communities what is in place in the event of an emergency and explain how their needs would be met; and
- To begin the process of getting all of the Emergency Planning (Resilience) partners to 'sign up' to the social model of disability.

3.2 In April 2008, a sub group to the London Resilience Disability Advisory Group met to consider the 53 recommendations that were produced from the seminar and brigade them into strategic recommendations for further work by the resilience partnership and sub group.

3.3 The sub-group then divided the brigaded recommendations into themes and referred these for further development to the Metropolitan Police Service Diversity and Citizen Focus Directorate, Disability Strand Team.

3.4 Further work was undertaken by the Disability Strand Team refining the themes into strategic statements. The strategic statements provide guidance and should be taken by the resilience partner members

and used to support operational planning. The Disability Team circulated a draft of the strategic statements to sub-group members for consultation and comment.

3.5 On 12 May 2009, the sub group met to discuss next steps and to incorporate any feedback from the circulated draft. It was agreed that a final paper would be produced outlining the strategic statements and next steps. The final paper would be received by the June 2009 meeting of the London Resilience Disability Advisory Group.

3.6 The recommendations from the 2006 London Emergency Planning Seminar, though valid, have to some extent been absorbed into the publication of the London Resilience Strategy for Disability Equality in Emergency Planning. This strategy has been summarised in the Strategic Emergency Plan Version 5.0 – February 2009. For completeness, it was decided that there was value in circulating the strategic statements to partners to support their operational planning and to complement the London Resilience Strategy for Disability Equality in Emergency Planning.

4.0 STRATEGIC STATEMENTS (London Emergency Planning Seminar)

Information

4.1 All communication strategies must reflect the wide ranging requirements of deaf and disabled people. All appropriate formats should be used and take into account that Standard English may not be readily understood. This should reflect rights and responsibilities under the DDA and other legislation.

- 4.2 Organisations should consider the use of staff whose role is purely to disseminate information and who are experienced and skilled in a range of communication methods.
- 4.3 When passing information to the public, the widest use of good quality audio and visual methods should be considered. The methods employed should be appropriate to the phase of the incident in which they are used and could include: visual information displays, audible announcements and pictorial symbols /images and large scale vehicle mounted displays.
- 4.4 Information flows for deaf and disabled people, at all stages of an incident should be accurate, factual and timely. Information should be made available as widely as possible, informing people outside the effected area as well as inside.

Equipment

- 4.5 Provision must be made for the replacement of necessary equipment, medications, etc, during the consolidation and recovery phases of an incident.

Awareness

- 4.6 Information should be disseminated to persons responsible for evacuation of buildings under Health and Safety legislation.
- 4.7 The use of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans should be encouraged and persons made aware of their liabilities under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- 4.8 The access requirements of deaf and disabled people should be taken into consideration when

planning closures and maintaining access and egress in both premises and public highways. Routes, closures and diversions should be advertised in accessible media and other formats.

Consultation

- 4.9 Deaf and disabled people must be represented at all stages of resilience planning including Equality Impact Assessment in planning and preparation. Consultation must include both organisations and individuals who are suitably qualified or competent to give advice on the topic under discussion and how it impacts on deaf and disabled people.

Training

- 4.10 A public information campaign should be established giving both general and specific advice designed to provide advice and guidance to all persons in 'resilience' situations. This must include specific advice and guidance for and about deaf and disabled people.
- 4.11 Organisations diversity training should include a wider communication skills element with emphasis on deaf and disabled people in the 'resilience' situation.
- 4.12 First and second level responders 'resilience' training should include specific elements of deaf and disabled awareness, compiled in consultation with deaf and disabled people/organisations.

Equality Impact Assessment and Performance Management

- 4.13 Suitable performance measurement criteria should be incorporated into each partnership member's performance management scheme and policies

subject to EIA on Deaf and Disability 'resilience' issues.

CBRN

4.14 Communicating in a CBRN environment – London Resilience is currently waiting for Home Office guidance.

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Metropolitan Police Authority report, Equal Opportunities and Diversity Board - 7 September 2006 - London Emergency Planning seminar 2006
- London Resilience Strategic Emergency Plan version 5 February 2009
- London Resilience Strategy for Disability Equality in Emergency Planning
- Further advice and guidance can be found at:
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>