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*Dear Colleague,*

## **PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL RECOVERY GUIDANCE**

**We are writing to inform you that National Recovery Guidance, amplifying material available in *Emergency Response and Recovery*, has been published today on the UK Resilience website at [www.ukresilience.info/response/recovery\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.ukresilience.info/response/recovery_guidance.aspx). We hope that Local Resilience Forums and Local Authorities will find it helpful in refreshing their multi-agency Recovery Plans, against the heightened risk of flooding over this autumn and winter.**

Although there are examples of good practice, it is generally acknowledged that Recovery has been rather overlooked in work so far to improve the UK's resilience, which has tended to concentrate on the Response phase to emergencies and on improving response capabilities. But events over the last few years, and particularly over the summer, have reminded us of the need to invest as much time and energy in planning for Recovery as we do for Response if our end goal – of minimising the impact of emergencies on people and their families – is to be achieved.

With this in mind, the Communities and Local Government department in partnership with the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) launched a workstream last year to amplify the material on Recovery available to responders in *Emergency Response and Recovery*. The Guidance, produced by the National Recovery Working Group, is the result. It consists of:

- a Recovery Plan guidance template
- detailed Topic Sheets covering various aspects of recovery, and
- Case Studies from incidents and exercises.

For those Local Resilience Forums and Local Authorities who do not already have multi-agency Recovery Plans in place, the Guidance provides advice on how this planning can be taken forward (see the *Recovery Structures and Processes* section for more details). In particular, following requests from stakeholders, a Recovery Plan guidance template has been produced which Local Resilience Forums and Local Authorities can use as a basis for recovery planning tailored to their particular circumstances.



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For those who do already have Recovery Plans in place, the Guidance contains a wealth of material on good practice, together with case studies, which Local Resilience Forums and Local Authorities may want to use as the basis for checking that their Plans are up-to-date, not least against the learning of recent major events.

Because water tables and river levels are high, we face an increased risk of serious flooding during this autumn and winter. So we would in particular encourage Local Resilience Forums and Local Authorities to check that their planning for recovery would be robust against the demands which we have seen placed on local bodies over the summer.

Looking forward, the next round of the National Capabilities Survey (due for issue in January) will, for the first time, have questions about preparedness for Recovery. This will be used as one of the mechanisms to determine what further support local and regional responders may need as they continue to develop this capability. Beyond there, the Guidance will feed into CCS's review of *Emergency Response and Recovery*, which is due to take place next year. And Recovery will be established as a formal workstream within the national Capabilities Programme. Discussions are under way across Government on how this work should best be taken forward, recognising that a number of aspects of Recovery (e.g. Humanitarian Assistance) are, and should continue to be, capability workstreams in their own right.

Finally, the Guidance will in any case be periodically reviewed to ensure that it meets the needs of local responders. We would welcome any comments colleagues may have on the contents, and any additional case studies that you may be able to provide (the Guidance contains details of how these can be submitted).

We hope you find the Guidance of value in your planning for Recovery. Any enquiries should be directed in the first instance to Kathy Settle (Chair, National Recovery Working Group – contact details shown above) or to Mandy Mackenzie in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat on tel: 0207 276 6371 or e-mail to [mandy.mackenzie@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.mackenzie@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk).

Finally, we would once again like to thank all those organisations and individuals who gave freely of their time and expertise to contribute to the development of this Guidance. We would not have been able to publish such a comprehensive package of advice and information without your valuable input.

*Yours sincerely,*

Kathy Settle

Bruce Mann

***Local response gateway: preparing together***