

# GUIDE



## An overview of the Community Resilience Network in North Somerset

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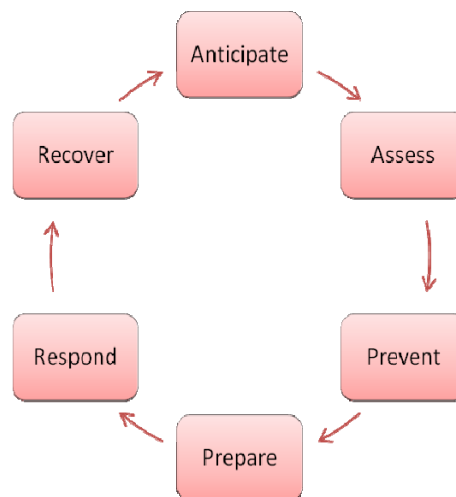
#### Network roles and responsibilities

### Definition

The National Framework describes Community Resilience as:  
“Communities and individuals harnessing local resources and expertise to help themselves in an emergency, in a way that complements the response of the emergency services.”

### Local Approach

Our approach in North Somerset is to develop a structure and support network to achieve the strategy, ensuring volunteers receive all appropriate training and resources. The model also provides an opportunity for local engagement with the wider resilience community whilst providing them with the confidence that volunteers can deliver a local response safely.



**Integrated emergency management** underpins the work of the emergency services and the wider resilience community and in order for the Community Resilience Network to realise its full potential it follows that this approach should be mirrored. The activities of the Community Resilience Network therefore are based on the six principles of Integrated Emergency Management which seek to identify, address and respond to risk.

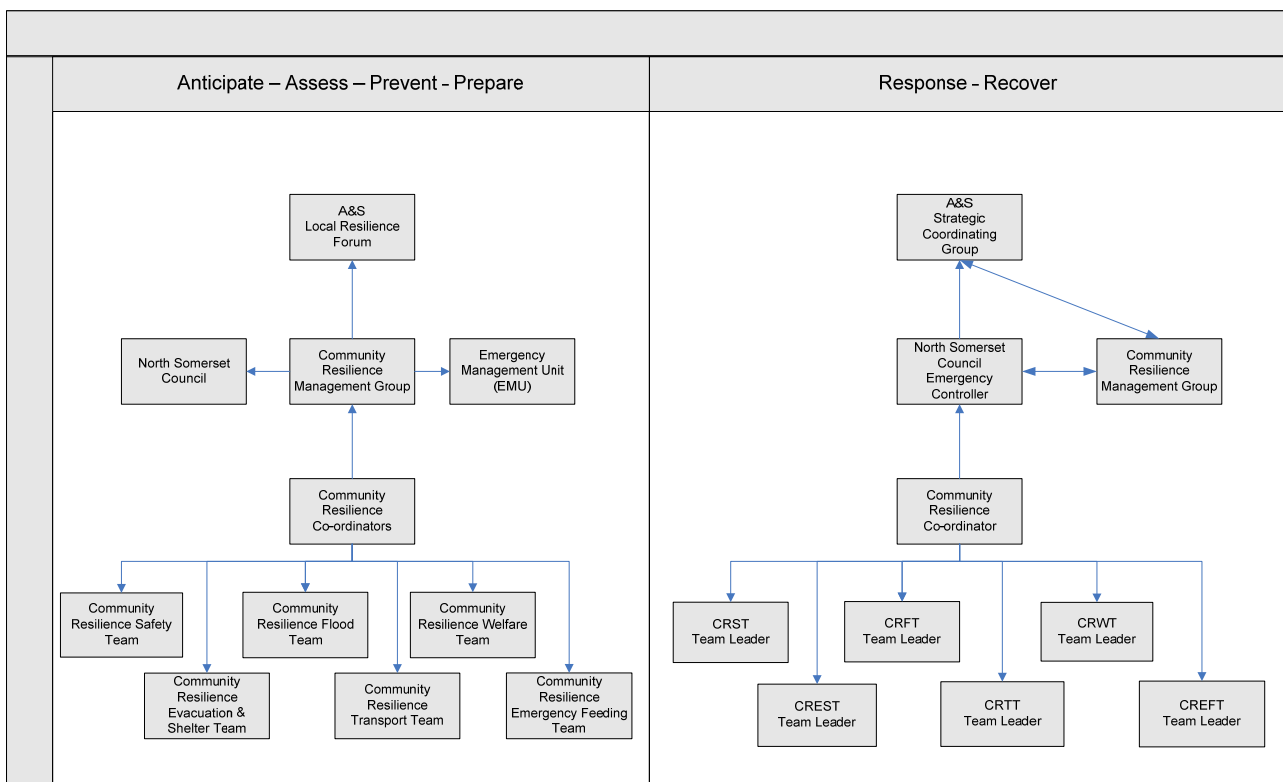


## Benefits to Communities across North Somerset:

- **Anticipate and Assess:** Being aware of the risks you might face, the likelihood of such an event and the potential impact is key to everyone's resilience. Risk aware communities who understand local need and can identify available resources are better prepared to cope with an emergency.
- **Prevent:** Taking actions individually or at the community level to remove or mitigate a threat reduces the likelihood of an emergency occurring.
- **Prepare:** Knowing what you need to do in advance of an emergency and preparing yourself, your family and your community will help to produce a timely and coordinated local response and ensure the more vulnerable members of the community are supported.
- **Respond:** Local emergency responders will always have to prioritise those in greatest need during an emergency, especially where life is in danger. During these times, and especially in those first few critical hours following an incident, utilising your local knowledge, skills and resources could significantly reduce the impact of an emergency.
- **Recover:** Emergencies happen, the evidence shows that communities that plan and work together recover more quickly and a community led approach ensures that local priorities are central to regeneration.

## Structure

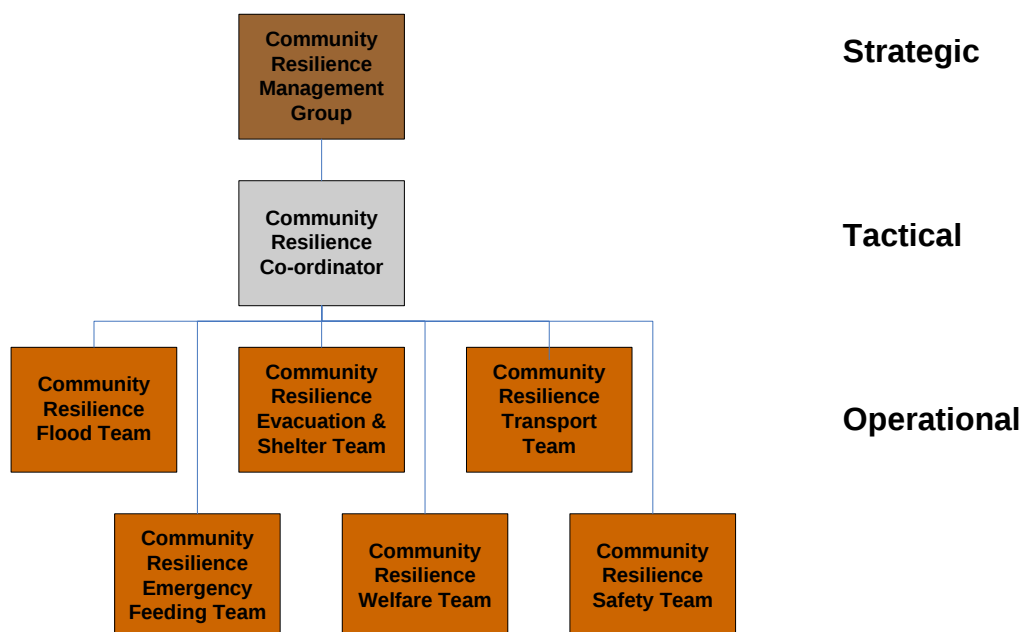
The Community Resilience Network is built from local community groups and volunteers who form community resilience teams in their local area with defined roles in preparation and response. The teams are coordinated at the local level by Community Resilience Coordinators and at the strategic level by the Community Resilience Management Group who link into the wider resilience community through the Local Resilience Forum.



## **Structure and Integration**

The structure of the Network seeks to integrate community resilience into the wider resilience community and utilises the principles of Integrated Emergency Management to develop the community's capacity to cope with an emergency.

It mirrors the national command and control structure with volunteers organised into operational, tactical and strategic roles on the basis of locally identified risks and generic response requirements:



## **Community Resilience Teams**

The six teams are the operational (BRONZE) units of the community resilience network and work to deliver the response or activity on the ground. All communities are different and the work of Community Resilience Teams will be informed by the local risks identified and the opportunities for engagement with partner agencies. The function of team members is expected to be interoperable, for example flood team members assisting with snow clearance in winter.

## **Community Resilience Coordinators**

The co-ordinators provide the tactical (SILVER) function coordinating the activity of the local teams in preparation and response, supported by a team leader from each of the operational teams.

## **Community Resilience Management Group**

Finally the strategic (GOLD) management group would be responsible for providing much needed resources to the community response and representing communities at any multi-agency strategic co-ordinating group.

At each of these levels community resilience leaders will have direct access to multi-agency partners at the respective level.

## Role Descriptions:

**Community Resilience Management Group:** provide the overarching coordination of the Community Resilience Network. The group provides the critical link to the wider civil contingencies network via Avon and Somerset's Local Resilience Forum and will help to improve the equality and effectiveness of local resilience by ensuring that communities have a voice in the wider emergency management agenda.

**Community Resilience Coordinators:** provide the local coordination of the Community Resilience Teams and the point of contact into the Community Resilience Management Group. The CRC will provide a single point of contact for the emergency services, local authority and other multi-agency partners in the event of an emergency. They will command, control and co-ordinate the activities of the Community Resilience Teams in their local area.

**Community Resilience Flood Team:** Flood Teams will work in partnership with the Local Authority, Parish Councils and the Environment Agency to identify local flood risks and develop action plans which will increase the flood resilience of individual households, businesses and the wider community. They will also respond to flood incidents at the local level.

**Community Resilience Evacuation and Shelter Team:** co-ordinate the evacuation of affected members of the community, liaising with the Community Resilience Transport Team and providing temporary facilities for shelter in co-ordination with the emergency services and local authority. Promote community evacuation and shelter preparedness to individuals and businesses; identify local skills and resources such as existing Community Groups and potential shelter locations

**Community Resilience Welfare Team:** champion the welfare needs of the community and co-ordinate any community response with the emergency services and local authority. Promote community resilience welfare measures to members of the community; identify the vulnerable members of the community; support health and well being initiatives.

**Community Resilience Transport Team:** champion emergency transport within the community and co-ordinate any community response with the emergency services and local authority. Promote transport preparedness such as: severe weather guidance, road safety initiatives, community transport services, resilience to fuel shortages and identify existing skills and resources within the community and risks to the local transport network.

**Community Resilience Safety Team:** champion safety within the community, encourage safe working practices for the other Community Resilience Teams and work with the emergency services and local authority on local safety initiatives such as fire and road safety and crime reduction.

**Community Resilience Emergency Feeding Team:** lead the emergency feeding response either as part of the community's own evacuation and shelter arrangements or in response to a request from the emergency services or local authority. Promote the preparation of family emergency plans, shelter kits, emergency grab bags, welfare initiatives such as food banks and promote the wider community resilience agenda to individuals, businesses and the community.