

Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 15 October 2013
Subject: Resilience Group for Schools and other Settings
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: This item details the First Annual Report of the Resilience Group for Schools and other Settings covering the period September 2011 – August 2013.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Pete Hardy, Compliance and Risk Adviser
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Central Bedfordshire Council's Strategic Plan 2012-16 Priority 3 – Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2013-2015 Priority 1 – Improved education attainment. Outcome 3 – Well led and managed schools.

Financial:

1. There are no financial implications.

Legal:

2. CBC has a duty under the Civil Contingencies (2004) to promote Business Continuity Planning.

Risk Management:

3. There is a risk of damage to the reputation of CBC caused by:
 - inadequate Emergency Planning by one of its establishments
 - perceived failure of CBC to have effectively supported a school in its ability to respond to an emergency.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. There are no staffing implications.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. The work of the Resilience Group affects all sectors of the community.

Community Safety:

6. There are no Community Safety implications.

Sustainability:

7. Schools' Emergency and Business Continuity Plans, once created, will need to be reviewed and updated regularly (by individual schools with support, as necessary, from the Council).

Procurement:

8. There are no procurement issues.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee reviews and comments on the annual report.

Background

9. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Central Bedfordshire Council is classified as a Category 1 Responder and has a duty to:
 - Assess the risk of an emergency occurring and maintain plans for preventing emergencies, reducing, controlling or mitigating the effects of an emergency; and taking other action in the event of emergencies
 - Ensure that Business Continuity Plans are in place to maintain Central Bedfordshire Council's critical services
 - Advise the public regarding risks before an emergency and warning and keeping the public informed in the event of an emergency
 - Provide business continuity advice and assistance to the private and voluntary sector
 - Co-operate and share information with other responders.
10. Although most schools are still under Local Authority control, there is no statutory duty placed directly on schools to have:
 - an Emergency Plan in place (beyond that required by the Health and Safety at Work Act)
 - a Business Continuity Plan in place.However, working with schools (local authority, academies, private and independent) to promote Business Continuity and Emergency Planning is essential to delivering the Council's duties under the Civil Contingencies Act.
11. The provision of the Resilience Group's Report enables the Children's Services Management Team to monitor the Group's work and in turn enables the Group to be fully accountable.

Appendices:

Appendix A - Annual Resilience Report

Background Papers:

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Appendix 2: School Emergency Co-ordinator Procedures

Appendix 3: Schools Business Continuity Planning Survey

Appendix 4: School Emergency Contacts

Appendix 5: Report on SOS System

Appendix 6: Feedback from Business Continuity Planning Up-date Session

Location of papers:

Priory House, Chicksands