

Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report provides members with a summary of the aims and objectives of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme. The Commission will receive a presentation from Roy Wilsher, CFO Hertfordshire and CFOA Operations Director.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the contents of the report; and
2. Consider LGA representation on the Programme's governance structures and where the Programme links with wider resilience workstreams.

Action

Officers to take forward actions.

Contact officer:

Clive Harris

Position:

Adviser

Phone no:

0207 664 3207/ 07747 636931

E-mail:

clive.harris@local.gov.uk

Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme

Background

1. The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme has been created to ensure that the blue light services are trained and exercised to work together as effectively as possible at all levels of command in response to a major incident (including fast-moving terrorist scenarios) so that as many lives as possible can be saved. The programme is not about making the services interchangeable but about recognising where there is a need to work together. The Home Office has provided funding of £1.76 million to cover a 24 month programme of work.
2. The programme of work aims to produce a common approach / set of principles that is applicable to all major incidents and risks where the emergency services have to work together to manage a range of dynamic hazards. It will build on the good work that has already been done in relation to specific risks, such as marauding terrorist firearms attacks, and learn from past experiences and the recommendations made following the July 2005 London bombings and the 2010 Cumbria shootings.

Governance

3. There are three levels of governance above the Programme Management Central office:
 - 3.1 Ministerial Blue Light interoperability board, chaired by the Home Secretary with Ministerial oversight for the programme (members include: SoS of DCLG and DH, ACPO, CFOA, CFRA).
 - 3.2 Strategic Blue Light interoperability board provides strategic leadership, direction and co-ordination, chaired by Roy Wilsher (members include: Home Office, DCLG, DH, CCS, ACPO, CFOA, HMIC and the LGA).
 - 3.3 The Blue Light interoperability programme board, chaired by ACC Craig Denham of Surrey Police is responsible for the governance and co-ordination of all work commissioned by the programme (members include ACPO, CFOA and HMIC).

Remit

4. The development and delivery of the JESIP work streams will be overseen by the second tier Board, chaired by Roy Wilsher and where the LGA has a place. The Board will:
 - 4.1 provide governance and co-ordination of all work commissioned by the programme;
 - 4.2 commission appropriate work streams to deliver the outcomes, agreeing terms of reference and scope for each, as drafted by the Programme team;
 - 4.3 ensure the work is delivered efficiently and effectively across the three services and partners, managing to an acceptable level any issues and risks affecting delivery;

Item 4

- 4.4 define agreed tolerance levels for each JESIP work stream, to ensure that time, cost, scope and risks remain within agreed limits to facilitate timely progress of deliverables, providing challenge and taking corrective action where exceptions occur; and
- 4.5 ensure that the communication strategy and regional delivery structure effectively embeds national requirements, whilst still allowing the flexibility required to deliver an effective local emergency response.

Programme workstreams

- 5. The workstreams being covered by the programme are as follows:
 - 5.1 JESIP Governance Structure
 - 5.2 Tri-Service Assessment of Capabilities (to meet National Threats & Hazards)
 - 5.3 Joint Emergency Service Guidance
 - 5.4 Practices for sharing Critical Intelligence (on Evolving Threats)
 - 5.5 Practices for Conducting Joint 'At Scene' Risk Assessments to Inform an Agreed Response
 - 5.6 Common Approach to the use of Mobile Communications
 - 5.7 Tri-Service Mobilisation & Co-ordination
 - 5.8 Joint Emergency Services Command Training
 - 5.9 Co-ordination & Integration of Blue Light Exercising
 - 5.10 Exploitation of Opportunities for Equipment & Procurement Sharing
- 6. This structure and work is defined and distinct, but Board members are aware that more work need to be done across Whitehall to ensure the wider links are made, such as with DCLG's Strategic Resilience Board and the resilience and emergency planning work that is undertaken by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office.

Potential risks

- 7. There are a number of points Members may wish to highlight in this discussion. When considering/assessing potential national interoperability solutions the JESIP needs to be mindful of the local variations that exist across regions, especially in relation to capability and capacity. This has recently been highlighted through the development of joint operating protocol for the Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack threat where the police firearms capability is different across the country.
- 8. There will also be work to do to ensure that when joint service doctrine is developed, this is aligned with and is complementary to the new arrangements for the production of National Operational Guidance. It will also be important that both groups are fully sighted on each other's work to avoid duplication and/or inconsistencies being introduced.
- 9. Both CFOA and JESIP acknowledge the importance of allowing for flexibility in delivering effective local emergency response and this should be welcomed. However, there is concern in some FRSs about the proposition that all services adopt the ACPO National Decision Model. The sector's experience with the Marauding Firearms work suggests that this formality may not be required as there is sufficient 'read across' between the police and fire service's decision making models.

Item 4

10. We would also encourage JESIP to take advantage of the learning from the multi-agency structures and protocols that were successfully developed and implemented for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. There are many examples of best practice in terms of both planning for and responding to large scale events as well as an effective training and exercising programme.
11. Some of the intended work-streams have the potential to significantly impact on FRAs' existing policies and procedures. Where there are additional cost pressures, Members will want to be clear how these are to be funded, and whether these constitute a new burden.

Financial Implications

12. There are no immediate financial implications.