

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSC/23/4
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	31 JANUARY 2023
SUBJECT OF REPORT	NATIONAL RESILIENCE EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS
LEAD OFFICER	ACFO Gerald Taylor, Director of Service delivery
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the report be noted.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This paper explains how the Services National Resilience (NR) teams integrate the exercise requirements, as identified by NR into its training, and how Learning is captured and disseminated locally and nationally
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Business as usual. No resource request
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	Complete
APPENDICES	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. National Resilience (NR) consists of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Mass Decontamination (MD), High Volume Pumping (HVP), Enhanced Logistic Support (ELS) and lately Marauding Terrorist attack specialist response teams *(MTA). **Note MTA moved into NR in late 2022 and has not yet been aligned to the NR exercise program*
- 1.2. The overall Lead Fire and Rescue Service for NR is Merseyside FRS (Lead Authority), they liaise with Government departments to ensure the NR capabilities are funded and fit for purposes to provide a capability to manage the risks identified on the national risk register.
- 1.3. The equipment, training, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), risk assessments and standard operating procedures are agreed via the Lead Authority. This enables total interoperability of teams and equipment.
- 1.4. Training is delivered by hosting Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) teams across England (the Service delivers national training in USAR, HVP & ELS)
- 1.5. The Lead Authorities role is to provide National Resilience assurance to Government. This is managed by the National Resilience Assurance Teams (NRAT). Their role is to set the required Key Performance indicators (KPIs) for the different capabilities.
- 1.6. The NRAT team set the requirements for training, exercising and asset refresh for the 5 capabilities.
- 1.7. They test and assure these requirements on a rolling basis and feed this information back to Government in the form of an annual assurance report.
- 1.8. Any learning identified via incidents, exercises/training, accidents or debriefs is captured via the NR portal (a separate website hosted via the Lead Authority) this identifies trends which are used to develop KPIs, update exercise requirements, update equipment or risk assessments or operating procedures.
- 1.9. To ensure that the NR hosting FRS's can successfully deliver an effective response, the NRAT have developed a rigorous assurance process. This is designed around a 3 year framework.

Year 1: FRS USAR team self-assessment	
Completion of a self-assessment against the KPI's and other elements of the Concept of Operations. FRS's are required to self-evaluate against a range of statements and submit evidence in support	Assurance visits Will be carried out with all NR hosting FRS over the course of the cycle.

Year 2: Zonal practical assurance exercises	
Practical assurance events, planned and facilitated by each of the zones and the FRS within, assessed by officers from the Capability Team supported by national tactical advisors. The programme is based upon a series of question sets and practical scenarios designed to allow teams to demonstrate technical and procedural competence against a range of areas, which may include areas of specific focus identified by the Capability Team following the outcomes of year 1. The year 2 assurance process will also include evaluation of the Capability Team of continuous zonal collaboration	Assurance visits Will be carried out with all NR hosting FRS over the course of the cycle
Year 3: Participation in national exercise	
Operational assurance of a response group, designed to test phases of the concept of operations. This will be assured by the NRAT and supported by National tactical advisors.	Assurance visits Will be carried out with all NR hosting FRS over the course of the cycle

2. **EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS PER CAPABILITY**

- 2.1. Aligned to the 3 yearly exercise cycle, the following number of exercises have been identified via the Lead Authority (Note USAR and ELS are in Year 3, HVP and MD is in year 1)

NR capability	Local exercise requirements	Yr 1 (self assess)	Yr 2 (Zonal exercise)	Yr 3 (National exercise)
USAR	3 local	1	1	1
MD	3 local	1	1	1
HVP	3 local	1	1	1
ELS	3 local	1	1	1
MTA	NA	NA	NA	NA

- 2.2. The Service's target (identified within the Service exercise strategy) is linked directly to the risks held locally and cross border and encompasses the national requirements.

- 2.3. The data in Table 1 below shows the number of NR exercises completed in 2022

Table 1

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1

- 2.4. The Service has recently been assured via NRAT within the ELS capability, the assurance report identifies 'outstanding' practice.

3. OBJECTIVES TESTED FROM RECENT EXERCISES

- 3.1. The following objectives have been tested:

- A. Cross capability (working with ELS, HVP MTA, MD)
- B. Interoperability (working with other agencies)
- C. Testing National resilience arrangements.
- D. Testing NR policies and procedures
- E. Testing operations and response
- F. Testing preparedness

- 3.2. This work has identified several areas of learning on a national level such as the ND2 review which will impact on NR resilience arrangements, preparedness, and response.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. National Resilience within the Service is delivering successfully against the Nationally agreed Exercise schedule.
- 4.2. It is demonstrating regularly that it is testing its preparedness and operational competence against real life scenarios.
- 4.3. The NR assurance mechanism is proving successful, and the assurance reports are demonstrating the NR capabilities within DSFRS are fit for purpose. The training and exercising program identified by the Service within the NR context is providing vital data to support changes within this area. This is ensuring that NR can deal with the risks on the national risk register and provide support to the communities within England.

ACFO GERALD TAYLOR
Director of Service Delivery