



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	13 th May 2025
Report Title	Annual Resilience Report
Report Number	HSCP25.031
Lead Officer	Fiona Mitchelhill, Chief Officer
Report Author Details	Name: Martin Allan Job Title: Business, Resilience and Communications Lead Email Address: martin.allan3@nhs.scot
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	None
Terms of Reference	Monitor the IJB's work and performance as a Category One Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To provide the annual assurance report on the Integration Joint Board's (IJB's) resilience arrangements in fulfilment of its duties as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the IJB:

- a) indicate they are assured that the duties of the IJB as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 are being met (as detailed in the report)



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. Ensuring a robust and effective risk management process will help Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) achieve the strategic priorities as outlined in its strategic plan, as well as the IJB's duties under the Civil Contingencies Act, as it will monitor, control, and mitigate the potential risks to achieving these. The Operational Risk relating to the IJB being a Category 1 Responder has been aligned to the ACHSCP Strategic Plan.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1. The IJB has emergency planning responsibilities to fulfil as a Category 1 responder, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. These responsibilities were confirmed in April 2021. This report provides an annual position statement on our activity and preparedness in the areas set out in the Act, including details of further planned improvements to ensure that the IJB and ACHSCP are in as strong a position as possible to respond to emergencies and incidents.
- 4.2. To recap, our responsibilities under the 2004 Act are as follows:
- To assess the risk of emergencies occurring and using this to inform contingency planning.
 - To maintain emergency plans and business continuity plans.
 - To inform the public about civil protection matters and to maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency.
 - To share information with other local responders to enhance coordination, and to co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency.
- 4.3. ACHSCP is a member on a variety of governance groups established by NHS Grampian (NHSG) and Aberdeen City Council (ACC), as well as the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership (GLRP).
- 4.4. ACHSCP's Senior Managers on Call (SMOCs) remain on call 24/7 throughout the year and are responsible for assessing and managing civil contingencies risks during emergency response.



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

- 4.5.** The SMOC's operations have been revised during 2024/25, with the SMOC's now being on call for either 4 days (Monday to Thursday) or 3 days (Friday to Sunday) on a rota basis which means that the SMOC's are not on call for a full 7 days. Also, the SMOC's no longer attend the daily (sometimes twice daily) NHSG System meetings, with attendance now delegated to the appropriate operational level. In 2024/25 there has also been changes in the personnel of the SMOC's with 2 SMOC's leaving the organisation and 1 SMOC being recruited onto the rota.
- 4.6.** As stated above, ACHSCP work closely with other Category 1 Responders, particularly the wider GLRP, ACC and NHSG. In relation to ACC, some of the close working has been in connection with caring for people. ACHSCP are the lead for any care for people response in the City and work in conjunction with ACC to provide this response. The Aberdeen City Care for People Plan has been revised in 24/25 and outlines how Support Centres can be set up (this is done through the instruction of the ACC's Duty Emergency Response Co-ordinator DERC).
- 4.7.** In relation to the GLRP, work is ongoing around planning for a National Planning Outage (NPO). As a result, ACHSCP is one of the Category 1 Responders who will be based at Woodhill House (it has a separate generator) to co-ordinate the response using a Multi-Agency Co-ordination centre (MACC) approach.
- 4.8.** ACC's Emergency Planning officers have spent time this past year ensuring their Emergency Response teams are prepared and have equipment ready to manage a response. Kittybrewster depot has become the logistics base for the Council and holds stock for Support Centre Managers to use if a rest centre is required. Also, if there is a NPO, Kittybrewster is the meeting point for key staff and there is additional equipment held for this eventuality. ACHSCP have also been allocated space at Kittybrewster and appropriate operational staff will be based there during a NPO.
- 4.9.** As well as ensuring that equipment is available the Council have undertaken a full assessment of venues for use in an emergency response. There are 6 centres across the city with Transportation partners on board for moving citizens to these centres if required. Support Centres • Aberdeen Sports Village; Get Active @ Jesmond; Get Active @Sheddocksley; Get Active@ Peterculter; Get Active @ Kincorth; and Get Active @ Beacon.
- 4.10.** ACHSCP has responded to a number of incidents / events and effectively managed these through its emergency response structures. De-briefs have



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

been completed for all events responded to and improvement actions are identified and overseen by the Civil Contingencies Group

Incident / Event	Activity
Bressay Brae unexploded ordnance- July 2024	SMOC activated • ACC Support Centre Manager activated • Multi agency meetings with Police, Fire, Ambulance and Ministry of Defence • Rest Centre at Sport Aberdeen Sheddocksley opened. SMOC took part in ACC debrief.
Lemon Place Suspicious device/package- November 2024	SMOC activated • ACC Incident Management Team stood up (SMOC attended meetings) • ACC Support Centre Manager activated • Multi agency meetings with Police, Fire, Ambulance and Ministry of Defence • Rest Centre at Aberdeen Sports Village opened. SMOC took part in ACC debrief.
Aulton Court damage/vandalism to alarm system- December 2024	Mostly a Business As Usual response • ACC Incident Management Team stood up (SMOC attended meetings) • Operation response and repair undertaken by ACC
Merkland Road East fire-January 2025	SMOC activated • ACC Incident Management Team stood up (SMOC attended meetings) • Support Centre Manager activated. Multi agency meetings with Police, Fire, Ambulance • Rest Centre at Aberdeen Sports Village opened • Support provided at Rest Centre by British Red Cross. SMOC took part in ACC debrief. One area for ACHSCP to consider for future incidents is having a suitably trained clinician at future Rest centres to assist the Support Centre Manager with any health requirements (eg urgent prescriptions)-This will be picked up by ACHSCP's Lead for Business, Resilience and Communications.
Storm Eowyn-January 2025	SMOC activated • ACHSCP and ACC Incident Management Teams stood up (SMOC attending these) • ACHSCP services kept informed of



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

	latest weather warnings/bad weather guidance. SMOC attended meetings of ACC IMT Thursday-Saturday. Vulnerable People List was checked for those affected by the power outages due to storm. IMT stood down on Saturday morning. SMOC took part in ACC debrief. One area for ACHSCP to consider in future incidents is the establishment of its own IMT, as detailed in the approved ACHSCP Generic Emergency Plan. This has been picked up by ACHSCP's Lead for Business, Resilience and Communications. It is planned that a tabletop exercise to test the ACHSCP's Generic Emergency Plan be arranged by the end of summer 2025.
--	--

4.9 Exercising and training continues to be a priority for the Partnership, with full support from the Senior Leadership Team which is critical in ensuring engagement from all relevant teams. The following have been completed this year:

Training topics	Completed	Agency/staff involved
National Power Outage (NPO) presentation-March 2024	Yes	SMOC's and DERCs
SMOC and DERC Winter refresher session-October 2024	Yes	SMOCs and DERC's
Community Resilience Conference-October 2024	Yes	SMOC's and Existing community groups and potential community groups – Aberdeenshire council and other Category One responders.
Individual SMOC training-throughout the year when new SMOC's come onto the rota	Yes	SMOC's



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

- 4.11.** The continued use of the Resilience Hub (set up as a resource for SMOC's and DERC's which provides a toolkit for emergency response teams), has continued with a strong focus over the year and its content is steadily growing. This assists with situational awareness, sharing of historical data and lessons learned, partnership contacts, relevant legislation and regulation reference documents. The Resilience Hub is also a central place to share information and updates on incidents and acts as the single point of contact for current information e.g. emergency plans and activation packs. Some of the content on the Resilience Hub includes:
- Monthly updates posted UK PROTECT Bulletin
 - Sharing of partner rotas
 - Weather updates, official warnings as well operational updates
 - DERC and SMOC channel to allow immediate information flow
 - Templates for managing incidents and debriefs from incidents
 - Media reports of interest
 - Changes in legislation or guidance
 - Training opportunities from other partners
- 4.12.** Risks are also assessed and monitored regularly through the GLRP which manages a risk register and resulting workplan. ACHSCP is represented on the GLRP which meets quarterly and its Working Group which meets every six weeks.
- 4.13.** ACHSCP developed a Generic Emergency Plan in 2024, which was approved by the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee in December 2024. This Plan will be exercised via a tabletop exercise by the end of summer 2025.
- 4.14.** As mentioned previously, preparation continues around an NPO, formally known as National Electricity Transmission System. A NPO is an unplanned prolonged power outage affecting the whole of the UK, or the whole of Scotland. This is a significant piece of work being progressed through a GLRP Task and Finish Group, a separate Resilient Telecommunications Group, and ACHSCP are involved in the Council's NPO planning process, as well as through NHSG's processes. An in-person session arranged by ACC, with key officers was held in late March 2024. Meetings of the Council's NPO Working Group have started and ACHSCP are represented on this Group and will lead the Care for People Sub Group of the wider Group.



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

- 4.15.** The Alcohol Drug Partnership held a tabletop exercise in October 2023 on a new or emerging public health emergency relating to potential threat and mitigations of highly potent substances in Aberdeen i.e. high numbers of drug related deaths, harms and associated consequences. Following the exercise a draft Plan was submitted to the Aberdeen City Chief Officer's Group (COG) and was approved. Since then, work has been undertaken to convert the Aberdeen City Plan into a Grampian wide Plan, with meetings being held with colleagues in Aberdeenshire and Moray to progress this. This is in recognition of the fact that such an outbreak will inevitably cross administrative boundaries given the movement of people across the region. It is planned that an exercise testing the Plan will be held by the end of 2025.

Warning and Informing the Public

- 4.16.** ACHSCP's Communications officer operates a 24/7 – 365 days on-call rota (ties into ACC's and NHSG's out of hours rota for cover), part of which they will inform the public and media of any emergency.
- 4.17.** The staff member is part of the wider GLRP Public Communications Group – this group plays a crucial role in coordinating public communications.

Working with Local Responders

- 4.18.** ACHSCP has continued to work closely with all local Category 1 and 2 responders during the year. Key learnings from debriefs included: the building and promotion of Community Resilience throughout the City (in conjunction with ACC); the further development of the Aberdeen City Persons at Risk Database (PARC); and for all responders to consider their own Business Continuity Plans.
- 4.19.** Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks secured £125k grant for use in the City for community resilience purposes. As a result, 40 portable battery packs have been gifted to ACHSCP for use with vulnerable clients who have been affected by power outages in previous storms. Work is ongoing to deliver these batteries to clients.

4.20. CONTEST

The UK national strategy which aims to reduce the risk of terrorism through "the four Ps" –

- **Prevent:** stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

- **Protect:** improve our protective security to stop a terrorist attack.
- **Prepare:** work to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover as quickly as possible
- **Pursue:** investigate and disrupt terrorist attacks.

4.21. ACHSCP has been working with resilience partners in relevant areas to CONTEST. All staff in ACHSCP have been provided with information around CONTEST and how to complete the online Actions Counter Terrorism (ACT) training. The ACT training takes one hour and is an entry level, interactive, online product designed to provide counter terrorism guidance to help mitigate against current terrorist methodology.

4.22. Prevent – Refreshed duty guidance has been issued this year by the Scottish Government; no major impacts have been identified, and work has been undertaken to ensure existing operational practice and guidance internally has been updated to reflect the recent changes.

4.23. Protect-The Terrorism (Protective of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, received Royal Assent on the 3rd of April 2025. Now that the Act has received Royal Assent, we expect the implementation phase to be at least 24 months. This will include establishing the regular function within the Security Industry Authority (SIA) as well as ensuring that there is time for businesses, premises and events to prepare for the legislation coming into force.

4.24. ACHSCP have been attending meetings of the North East multi-agency sub group which has a strong network of partners across Grampian to discuss impact, guidance on delivery and training opportunities coming from the Bill. ACHSCP (and the 2 other HSCP's) are not employers and do not own any buildings, so discussions are being held around the governance required to be in place to allow HSCP's to adhere to the legislation.

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

While there are no direct implications arising as a result of this report, equalities implications are considered when operating a response to an incident via the current checking of D365 for vulnerable clients and in the future using the PARD.



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

5.2. Financial

The Senior Managers on Call receive a standby allowance for being on call which equates in total to approximately £10,000 per annum. In addition to this, Time Off in Lieu (TOIL) is claimed by the SMOC's if they are involved in response/incident call outs.

5.3. Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

5.4. Legal

This report outlines the duties that IJB's have under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and explains how the IJB has been meeting its duties. The report also references the draft Terrorism (Protective of Premises) Bill which sets out the requirements that, under Martyn's Law, venues and other organisations will have to meet to ensure public safety.

Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications relating to unpaid carers in this report, however the continued development of the PARD will look at how unpaid carers and those that they care for are included in the project.

5.5. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from this report; however, it should be noted that information sharing in response mode does have information governance implications which should be addressed by statutory requirements or local arrangements.

5.6. Environmental Impacts

The report outlines ACHSCP's response to adverse weather events as a Category 1 Responder.

5.7. Sustainability



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from the report.

5.8. Other Implications

There are no other implications arising from this report.

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks(s)

The Risk on the IJB fulfilling its requirements under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 was de-escalated from the Strategic Risk Register to the operational level and is being monitored through the ACHSCP's Civil Contingencies Group. The controls and mitigating actions that have been outlined in this report around the IJB's duties have managed to reduce the risk. The development of the PARD, continued review of plans and the exercising of these plans will help to further reduce the risk.

Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

As detailed above the risk around the IJB fulfilling its duties under the Act are contained at the operational level and are managed by the Business, Resilience and Communications Lead and monitored by the ACHSCP's Civil Contingencies Group on a quarterly basis.