

South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum

Telecommunications Sub Group

Resilient Telecommunications Plan

Experience from previous disasters has shown that telecommunications often fail when put under extreme pressure in an 'Emergency'. Existing telecommunications in South Yorkshire have been considered by the Telecommunications Sub Group (TSG) and arrangements put in place to enhance resilience amongst local responders and resilience partners in South Yorkshire and neighbouring LRFs.

In an 'Emergency' within South Yorkshire, a large number of organisations may be involved in the response and it is vital those organisations can communicate at all times. Telecommunication needs, internally and between responding LRF organisations and partners, is complex. The assessment of the means to communicate and organisations involved will depend greatly on the situation but should where possible utilise those methods in use during 'business as usual'. Individual organisations are required to have robust and diverse internal communication arrangements, subject of their own business continuity plans.

The TSG aim is to provide a degree of co-ordination of the arrangements by providing specialist advice to identify problems, propose solutions, provide sitreps and seek help from external sources to assist partner organisations and thereby prevent disruption of the multi agency response during an 'Emergency'.

To this end a South Yorkshire LRF Telecommunications plan has been agreed at the Local Resilience Forum. The plan has been developed based on national planning assumptions and focuses on what is essential and practicable to achieve with the priority placed on local strategic level multi agency communications.

The planning is ongoing and the Group continue to meet on a regular basis with members drawn from the emergency services, local authorities, BT, RAYNET, utilities and military.