

8 November 2016

Agenda Item: 10

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
UPDATE ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND REGISTRATION SERVICES**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

Information and Advice

Emergency Planning

Winter weather emergency planning

2. On 11 October, members of the emergency planning team joined with Highways, Via, Media and Communications colleagues for a half-day Winter Readiness / Adverse Weather Workshop. The aim of the event was to consider the County Council and Via's readiness for responding to adverse winter weather conditions, requiring a response over and above normal day-to-day working practices. This objectives for the event were:
 - To outline the incident response / emergency management structures within Nottinghamshire County Council and Via
 - Ensure these structures dovetail with each other in the event of severe weather
 - Confirm roles and responsibilities
 - Explore the decision making process during response
 - Identify any significant changes to existing plans and procedures for winter weather
 - Identify any further considerations with communicating with the public, partners and Elected Members during winter weather conditions (before, during and after)
 - Provide assurance to senior managers and Elected Members that Nottinghamshire is prepared and ready for winter
3. The Workshop included briefings on the existing severe weather emergency plans and the highways winter maintenance plan, followed by discussion exercises around scenarios based on flood events and ice and snow incidents. At the end of the event, participants agreed that the aim and objectives had been met in full, and that assurance can be offered that the County Council is prepared and ready for responding appropriately to the impact of winter weather.

Safety at Sports Grounds

4. A during-performance match-day inspection was carried out at the Mansfield Town versus Notts County fixture on 8 October. An appropriately high degree of attention to safety matters was exhibited by the Mansfield Town safety team, and it was noted that the recommendations made following the corresponding fixture last season's fixture had been implemented in a very positive manner by the club. Also, officers are pleased to report that a very positive attitude is taken by the General Safety Certificate holders for the club, Tina Broughton, Paul Broughton and Stephen Middleton, and that Alan Lakin and his safety team demonstrate a very high standard of safety management on match days. As a consequence, Councillor Gilfoyle has written to the Chairman of the club to record the County Council's appreciation of the diligent approach taken towards safety management by the club.
5. Fully satisfactory during-performance safety inspections were completed at Nottingham Forest football club during the period when their capacity was restricted and since. Most recently, the club has nominated a second person to be a holder of the General Safety Certificate for the club, and the addition of Acting Safety Officer Brian Walton has been approved by the Safety Advisory Group for the ground.
6. With regard to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, the emergency planning team will monitor the ground redevelopment work at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground during the closed season. This will see the construction of the first phase of an extension to the Radcliffe Road stand. The second and final stage will be added during the 2017 – 2018 season.

Voluntary Agencies Training

7. The emergency planning team participated in the planning and delivery of Exercise Trent Evocatus, Which took place on 24 September as part of the programme of work for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum 'Voluntary Agencies Steering Group'. The event took the form of a training exercise at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, based on a severe flooding event.
8. The aim of the exercise was to increase the knowledge and understanding of volunteers regarding their own and other agencies' incident response roles and responsibilities. This was accompanied by a set of objectives including to increase awareness of the Voluntary Sector's capacity and capability in emergency planning, response and recovery activity amongst local partners. A further objective was to improve engagement, trust and confidence between the Local Resilience Forum partners and local Voluntary Sector organisations in order to utilise effectively the voluntary sector capabilities for emergency planning, response and recovery activity.
9. The event started with demonstrations of water and land rescue techniques by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, East Midlands Ambulance Service, the RSPCA, Wafersafe UK, and Nottinghamshire Search and Rescue. The event then moved on to a live documentation exercise to test the evacuee registration process, giving the participants who had previously attended the registration training an opportunity to put theory into practice. Volunteers for this part of the exercise included police cadets and uniformed public services students from Central College.

10. The event was well attended, with participation from voluntary agencies including the British Red Cross, Nottinghamshire 4x4 Response, Rapid Relief Team, and Cruse Bereavement. Refreshments and meals were provided by the Rapid Relief Team who demonstrated their capability to be able to provide welfare in the event of an emergency.

Rest Centres Survey Work

11. On occasions, during emergencies, it may be necessary to evacuate people from their homes to remove them from danger. Immediate temporary accommodation may be in the form of any suitable nearby building, selected by the emergency services that can serve as an immediate 'Place of Safety'. If the incident is likely to be prolonged then a 'Rest Centre' is required, normally hosted within a leisure centre. These pre-designated facilities will be staffed by County Council and other key agencies and volunteers, and can provide a wide range of services for evacuees.
12. Several of the designated rest centres around the county have been subject to change in recent times. Newark & Sherwood District Council have opened the newly built Newark Sports and Fitness Centre, which replaces the Grove Leisure Centre, and is now the designated rest centre in the Newark area. Ashfield District Council were reviewing their rest centre provision, which triggered new surveys for the Lammas Leisure Centre and Selston Leisure Centre. The rest centre layout for the latter now includes a Nottinghamshire County Council youth services building, and this has triggered further work to be done to look at the suitability of youth services buildings across the county as potential places of safety.
13. In addition, Gedling Borough Council requested a change of rest centre in the Arnold area, from the Redhill Leisure Centre to Arnold Leisure Centre. This was prompted by a request from Redhill Academy, who share a site with the leisure centre, wanting to have sole control of the sports hall. Arnold Leisure Centre has a theatre facility, rather than a sports hall, but recent developments require a more flexible approach to how rest centres are laid out. The issue with academies wishing to have more control over shared sites may arise in other areas of the county in the future.

Registration and Celebratory Services

Unusual marriage ceremonies

14. Periodically our registrars are called upon to conduct marriage ceremonies under sad or uncommon circumstances, and must be ready to do so at a moment's notice. These include death-bed marriages, where a person wishes to marry but is terminally ill and unable to attend a venue that is licensed for marriages or civil partnerships. This is done under a 'Registrar General's Licence'.
15. Unlike other marriages, no residential qualification is necessary for either partner in a death-bed marriage, and the notice of marriage or civil partnership can be given by just one person. Medical evidence is required of the sick person's condition and their capacity to understand the nature and purpose of the ceremony. Both parties must be legally free to marry or sign the civil partnership register, and normal evidence is

required in respect of name, age, and marital/civil partnered status. There is no waiting period for a Registrar General's Licence and once it is granted the marriage or civil partnership can take place at any time, day or night, within one month of the granting of the licence. In an emergency, if someone's health deteriorates suddenly and the Customer Service Centre is closed, the service can be contacted via the emergency planning 24/7 Duty Officer.

16. Similarly, registrars are required (upon request) to facilitate an application for a 'waiver' of the statutory 28 day waiting period before a marriage can take place. This is normally due to extreme personal circumstances, such as family member's illness or a military assignments. Such applications are considered by the General Register Office, who may decline the request if it is considered ineligible.
17. Inmates of HM Prisons are able to marry, and our registrars are required to conduct these ceremonies. Such marriage and civil partnerships ceremonies have taken place in all prisons in Nottinghamshire, including Lowdham Grange, Ranby, Whatton and Rampton Hospital. Prisoners' circumstances are included in the 'housebound and detained' provisions of marriage and civil partnership legislation. Registrars must make specific preparations for these ceremonies. The Governor of the prison has to issue authority for the marriage to take place before the couple can give notice of marriage. The registrars then visit the prison to take the notice, and return to conduct the ceremony. Each visit is subject to specific risk assessment and oversight by prison staff. Typically, there are two or three prison marriages in Nottinghamshire each year.

Other Options Considered

18. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

19. To update the Committee on this area of work contained within its remit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

21. There are no financial implications for Emergency Planning or Registration budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee notes the update on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

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Constitutional Comments

22. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments

23. There are no financial implications

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All