Cumbria PREPARED

Newsletter

Cumbria Local Resilience Forum

April 2026

Update on LRF Manager Priorities and Deliverables

Resilience Trailblazers and Cumbria Combined Authority

Cumbria is one of five pilot areas delivering Resilience Trailblazer. The Cumbria Combined Authority was formally established in early 2026 and begins operating without a Mayor for a transitional year. The two councils are now collaborating within the Combined Authority structure, planning initial strategies and preparing for new investments and programs. The groundwork is laid for ambitious projects in transport, skills, and more.

Recruitment for the Chef Resilience Officer will commence in April 2026, with interviews in May, and is advertised here - **Job profile**

CUMBRIA COMBINED AUTHORITY

Work Programme 2026-27

The Work Programme is now available on Resilience Direct. This is derived from debrief recommendations, national resilience standards and JOL recommendations being brought into packages of work.

Emma and I are focusing on these five elements:

- Development of improved tracking lessons identified system to be prioritised.
- Develop a heat map focused on natural hazards in Cumbria to prioritise local activity.
- Deliver a new version of Support Cumbria.
- Develop accessible public version of the Cumbria Emergency Plan.
- Develop a programme of promotion of the Cumbria Community Risk Assessment, including evaluation.

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LRF Team Updates

Cumbria Emergency Plan

In conjunction with Exercise Pegasus the Local Authorities commissioned a new Multi Agency Pandemic Plan. Many of you will have had the opportunity to work with Steve as he conducted research and interviews, and our thanks to the two Directors of Public Health for delivering a fresh perspective to our emergency plans.

Further updates in April will include a significantly revised Roles and Responsibilities Section which will now contain profiles for voluntary agency across Cumbria Search and Rescue Sub Group and the Voluntary Resilience Sub Group. There is also a new Part 4 which contains a list of Community Emergency Plans, which will be removed from the Flood Plan Part 3's, however we will also publish a spreadsheet to easily search the plans and provide an up to date list as they change regularly.

Supporting Vulnerable People Plan is also being updating, if your organisation holds information on vulnerable people and data please ensure your Capability Working Group representative completes the **MS Form**

This year developments will include investigating a North West National Power Outage and Pandemic Plan, as well as trialling a new Hazard information sheet to try and provide proportional information about hazards.

Support Cumbria

A new version of Support Cumbria has been commissioned through the Westmorland and Furness Digital Team.

This will form a database of Community Emergency Response Groups, local voluntary agencies and Parish Councils (who wish to participate in resilience).

The system will allow for geographical search but allow ownership of documents and contacts with the groups, rather than a reliance on the secretariat to continually update records.

Local Resilience VIPER and Cumbria VIPER

Cumbria VIPER Continues to be updated giving quick and easy access to Adult Social Care Data, as well as automatically cross reference other agencies vulnerable person data.

The Local Resilience VIPER has a working Prototype and now has full funding for Minimum Viable Build. Cumberland Council have offered to host and we are currently working through the transfer of funds. A Project Webinar was held at the end of the Local Digital Funding, the video is now available - **Find out about VIPER Webinar - Progress, Prototype, and Potential - YouTube**

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Community Emergency Hubs

In conjunction with the wider partnership the two Cumbrian Councils are trying out the idea of communities having their own emergency hubs. A community emergency hub is a safe place for communities in an emergency. People can come together and offer each other support in an incident or emergency.

We have already distributed 100 packs ready for distribution and have around 20 fully registered which will be available to the Local Authority Duty Officer through an asset on Resilience Direct.

If you do live in Cumbria, please help us raise the profile by talking to your local community venues, these can be village halls, reading rooms, faith venues and anywhere else the community feel would be suitable.

For more information please see Cumbria Prepared - **Community Emergency Hubs | Cumbria Prepared Community Emergency Hubs | Cumbria Prepared**

Office Move

The team have now moved offices, our thanks to Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service for hosting us for the last 3 Years.

Postal Address:
Westmorland and Furness Council
Redhills Building
Redhills Lane
Penrith
CA11 0DT

Local Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment Working Group have recently updated the Local Risk Assessment and Community Risk Register, together with the Planning Assumptions Document, setting out driver risks.

The next Meeting in June will complete the risks updated in the NSRA in 2025, just in time for the next update to an additional 15 risks.

Please see the link below for the Community Risk Register:
Hazards and Threats to Cumbria | Cumbria Prepared

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Update from LRF Coordinator

Hello everyone and happy 2026, I hope the first quarter of the year has treated you kindly.

I've been busy on some projects that are still underway, but it's been really fun working on some creative projects. This revolves around new ways to present risk information to wider audiences and may also include some cute animals telling stories. We also held a fuel disruption exercise in March. This was a good chance for people to dust off some plans and look at their internal procedures regarding a road fuel disruption incident, and it was a good engaging day with a great mix of agencies and knowledge brought to the table. While I admit it's not the most thrilling, exciting topic in the world, the wider impacts of people in Cumbria not having fuel were interesting to dive further into, especially thinking about all the potential supply chain issues which could occur.

Other things going on in my world are the usual beginning of the year contact group/resilience direct audits. I appreciate all the time taken to complete these things and trust me, I know it's not exciting. It is important that they're done so the right people are attending the right things. We've also already had our first Programme Board and Executive Board of 2026, both with new chairs. These were good starting points for setting the tone of the year, and I'm excited to see how the LRF transforms with our new chairs and the new Cumbria LRF vision.

Community Resilience Plans Validation

How might a community coordinate delivery of their mutual support during an emergency?

It's difficult to know precisely until an emergency occurs.

However, a community which runs through a scenario, in effect tries an exercise out, can keep their energy moving and evolve how they become better prepared for an emergency.

Also, it's a way of putting a Plan into Practice and discussing Community Resilience.

We are creating 4 scenarios, covering potential emergencies, they cover the topics of Severe weather flooding, Snow, a Blackout situation and extreme heat.

Could you host?

If your organisation has a community accessible venue and you would be willing to host a scenario "tabletop exercise", please get in touch

Crf.secretariat@cumbria.gov.uk

We'd also love to work with you to bring this training to your doorstep if you live in Cumbria.

Make connections, share learning, exchange experiences, meet neighbours and strengthen resilience. Together we aim to build a stronger, more unified societal resilience across the entire county.

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Funding and Staffing Update

The Secretariat is funded through a Capability and Capacity Funding from MHCLG. This funding has not risen in line with inflation since the introduction in 2021 and given the increase in Employer NI and staff pay rises the team size has had to be reduced.

In 2025/26 there was sufficient funding for 3 FTE, but this year we have some outstanding costs (such as Support Cumbria) and with unknown budget we have taken the decision to remain at the current 2 FTE staff (Alison and Emma), and not recruit a 0.5 FTE Development Officer.

This means there are elements which will no longer be supported, however we are fortunate to be a Trailblazer area and many activity which is additional to the Secretariat Role is continuing, such as Community Resilience.

Support for Emergency Plan writing will be limited, and with full review of the Multi Agency Flood Plans Part 3 to do this summer there will be less support for writing plans, and more will be discussed at the June Programme Board.

RD Audit

If you are an Administrator on Resilience Direct please remember to check your groups at least once a year, the full Cumbria LRF Membership is being undertaken throughout April.

Cumbria LRF Policies and Paperwork

- Security Protocol
- Exercise Protocol and Planning Guidance
- Freedom of Information Protocol
- Cumbria Emergency Plan Maintenance Protocol
- Equality Impact Assessment Protocol
- Resilience Standard Protocol
- JOL Protocol.
- Cumbria Local Resilience Forum Secretariat Function Manual
- Cumbria Strategic Direction 2024-2026
- Annual Work Programme 2026
- Event Proposal Form and Event Notification Form
- Resilience Direct Protocols
- Debrief Policy and Supporting Guidance
- CRF Work Programme Development
- Security Protocol

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Training Calendar

Scheduled Training

Unfortunately, the updated Learning and Development Prospectus won't be published until May but will contain more self-led and eLearning Opportunities.

30th April – Exercise Rough Pike (MOD Longtown) Training Day – On Line

20th May - Exercise Rough Pike (MOD Longtown) - Carlisle

For more information on these please contact
emergency.planning@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Contacts

Cumbria Local Resilience Forum Secretariat Function

crf.secretariat@ westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

www.cumbriaprepared.org.uk

LRF Manager - Alison Love

LRF Coordinator - Emma Liddell

Cumbria Local Resilience Forum Resilience Trailblazer Team

LRF Development Officer - Judith Woof

LRF Development Officer - Nik Schickhoff