

Aim

To ensure Rural West Area Partnership Board (APB) is able to identify and respond to the risks faced by vulnerable individuals and communities as a consequence of physical and social isolation in our rural areas.

Objective

Develop a model of best practice that brings together partners, communities and resources to collaboratively and consistently address social vulnerabilities associated with rural isolation.

Phase 1

To establish and maintain support networks for vulnerable residents within isolated rural communities affected by severe weather situations.

The focus of this work will be to explore how local skills and resources can be utilised alongside the statutory and voluntary agencies to identify vulnerable residents, co-ordinate local interventions and complement wider borough wide plans and strategies for dealing with extreme weather situations.

The intention is to develop community resilience plans for potentially vulnerable communities, in order to help them prepare for severe weather through:

- a. Identifying existing local networks and getting people involved
- b. Establishment of community co-ordinators
- c. Using local knowledge to identify vulnerable people
- d. Assessing community skills and resources

Initially working in partnership with a small number of pilot communities, Rural West APB will develop this approach using 4 scenarios:

1. Severe snow/ice
2. Inland flooding
3. Coastal flooding
4. Extreme hot weather

Once the pilots have been evaluated a best practice guide will be developed across the parishes of Rural West to assist communities in developing their own severe weather response.

Phase 2

The second phase is to consider how the principles in phase 1 can be applied to tackling other complex issues. Phase 2 is about establishing a new way of partnership working which enables the sharing of resources, skills and knowledge together with a prerequisite that local knowledge, engagement and ownership of issues is core to the approach.