

LRF welcomes Security Minister ahead of national resilience campaign

Security Minister Dan Jarvis visited the LRF to see at first-hand how partners and communities are coming together to strengthen their resilience to risks across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR).

The visit comes ahead of the UK Government's launch of its national resilience campaign later this year.

During his visit to Leicester, the Minister learned more about the Risk Ready community resilience programme, which was launched in March 2026 (a partnership between the LRF, Communities Prepared and Groundwork Five Counties).

Minister Jarvis took part in a Risk Ready community resilience workshop, where he spoke with local residents, along with representatives from local authorities, emergency services, voluntary organisations and community groups, about simple actions to guard against everyday emergencies.

He also met members of a community previously affected by flooding who have worked closely with partner agencies to reduce their flood risk by learning how to install their own pop-up flood barriers.



"The LRF is doing excellent work to raise awareness of simple steps households can take to stay safe in everyday emergencies" - Security Minister Dan Jarvis



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Get Risk Ready workshop

Minister Jarvis joined residents and partners to discuss the 'preparedness gap' and the tools that are needed to help bridge it.

Mind the (preparedness) gap

73% of people agree there are steps they can take to be prepared, but only...

13% feel their household is prepared

10% feel their community is prepared

• UK Public Survey of Risk Perception, Resilience and Preparedness 2025



Free webinars
Winter preparedness
 Thurs 22nd Oct - 10 - 11:30am
 Wed 4th Nov - 6:30 - 8pm

RISK READY COMMUNITIES
 Prepare Protect Empower

LLR Resilience Forum
 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

COMMUNITIES PREPARED

FIVE COUNTIES

Winter campaign launch

Storms, cold weather, ill health and loneliness are all greater risks as we head into winter - but people can access free support now through our Risk Ready community resilience programme.

Rachel Kozłowska-Best, Community Coach for the programme, said: "No two winters are the same so it's important to be prepared for whatever lies ahead. It's not just about adverse weather conditions but the effects on our health and wellbeing."

During the colder months, it's more important than ever to look out for people who may find it harder to cope, including older people, those with physical and mental health conditions and anyone who may be isolated or living in a rural area.

The programme can also advise on support for people experiencing, or at risk of, fuel poverty.

People can [sign up now](#) for our free winter preparedness webinars, and get free information, templates and tailored support.

"Winter risks can impact everyone but there are simple steps we can all take now to be prepared" -

Rachel Kozłowska-Best, Community Coach for Risk Ready programme

What's in yours?

That's one of the questions our Risk Ready team has been asking this summer.



Invite the Risk Ready team to your next community event!

We've been talking to people at community events, meetings and workshops across LLR about what they'd put in their emergency kit. An emergency kit is a great way to prepare for local risks, just in case you need to leave home in a hurry - or stay put, until the danger passes. We'll be attending more community events over the coming months so look out for us - or, even better, invite us along to your next event. (If we're not able to attend in person, we can provide free information and resources to help you support communities and households to be better prepared for local risks.)



Simple steps to household preparedness this winter:

GET RISK READY
 Prepare Protect Empower

RISK

Identify your local risks
 and where to get trusted information about them

Get to know your neighbours
 particularly anyone who may find it harder to cope in an emergency

Keep a supply of bottled water and tinned food



Watch back
 our webinar on preparing for utility outages

RISK READY COMMUNITIES
 Prepare Protect Empower

LLR Resilience Forum
 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

COMMUNITIES PREPARED

FIVE COUNTIES

Suggestions for your emergency kit...



List of useful phone numbers



Torch and batteries



Pet supplies (if needed)



ID, important documents and bank cards



Callum Faint, LRF Chair

Views from the Chair

This latest newsletter again highlights the vital and innovative work being done across LLR to help our communities prepare for, and respond to, challenges.

The visit by Security Minister Dan Jarvis was an acknowledgement of this work, and reinforced the importance of community resilience, as exemplified by our growing Risk Ready programme.

Resilience is strongest when communities are informed, connected and actively involved in preparing for the risks they face. Since the 'Getting Risk Ready' Summit, partners have continued to build on this ethos, using learnings from the event to develop new initiatives designed to strengthen community resilience.

As we move towards winter, preparedness remains a priority. Our new winter campaign and free webinars provide practical support to help residents prepare for seasonal risks.

The challenges of extreme weather this summer, including wildfires and drought, underlined the importance of clear and timely public safety messaging. Sharing consistent messaging enables people to make informed decisions and protect themselves, their families and their communities.

By continuing to work together, share knowledge and engage with our communities, we can build a safer, stronger and more resilient Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Inclusive Resilient Pathways toolkits to go live

We're proud to have played a part in the development of two new toolkits which will help community organisations to think about the role they can play before, during and after an emergency - and help emergency planners and responders to involve communities more effectively in their work.

The Inclusive Resilient Pathways toolkits, which go live on 13 October, have been developed in partnership with voluntary organisations, local authorities and resilience experts from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, as well as LLR LRF, London and Merseyside.

The toolkits are 'Getting Ready for Emergencies: A Toolkit for Community Organisations' and 'Bringing Community Voice into Resilience Planning: A Practical Guide for Resilience Practitioners'.

"These toolkits will encourage all of us to re-think how we approach vulnerabilities and the way in which community organisations and responders can work together to support communities in need" - Rachael Payne, British Red Cross

What's been happening since the Summit?



Summit reinforces ambitions

The LRF's 'Getting Risk Ready' Summit this summer reinforced the case for focusing future activity on three key areas:

1. Helping individuals and households become better prepared
2. Strengthening community resilience and self-help capability
3. Developing a new youth-focused programme through Risk Ready NextGen

Since then, we've been working with partners and communities to build on these ambitions.

Actions so far include:

- partnering with Warning Zone

and Loughborough University to explore a collaborative programme focused on youth climate and community resilience, as part of our evolving Risk Ready Next Gen programme

- working with housing sector partners to discuss ways of integrating risk awareness and preparedness information into tenant engagement activity
- developing a suite of practical resources for partners to support conversations with residents about local risks

And there's lots more to come!

Why exercise is good for us...

Training and exercising continues to ensure that our multi-agency partners can prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies in a way that is effective, consistent and coordinated - enabling us to deliver the best possible outcomes for the people and communities we serve. In September alone, we delivered incident training to more than 300 people from partner organisations.

Tactical Command training

This two-day training, led by GSB Command Training, prepares tactical commanders from the emergency services, local authorities and other partner organisations to work together in an effective partnership response.



They do this by assessing risks, sharing information and following established LRF plans and processes - all of which are designed to reduce the impact of emergencies.

The session concluded with a multi-agency Tactical Coordination Group to determine partnership roles and next steps - exactly as would happen during a real incident.

(It was also good to see people using our new Management of Incidents Handbook!)



JESIP training

Our latest JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles) training session at Leicestershire Police HQ brought together strategic, tactical and operational commanders from a range of partner agencies to practise their response to a major incident scenario and apply the JESIP principles.

Community Response Plan testing

Villagers in Sileby got the chance to test and review their Community Response Plan (CRP), with support from Resilience Officers. Their plan includes a detailed outline of how to prepare for, and respond to, flooding which is a recurring risk for the village.



Power of partnership helps to keep public safe

This summer, LRF partners have played an important role in protecting people and communities, by sharing public safety messaging during some challenging weather conditions.



Amber extreme heat warning

Expected temperatures of up to 38 degrees prompted safety advice, particularly for older people



Drought conditions and wildfires

Drought exacerbated the risk of wildfires. As a result, people were urged not to light fires, including disposable BBQs



Summer flooding

A yellow weather warning for heavy rain triggered fears of flooding on extremely dry ground, following months of little or no rainfall

We're stronger together - stay connected!



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Social media

Facebook:

@LLRLocalResilienceForum

LinkedIn:

@LLR-Local-Resilience-Forum

Instagram:

@RiskReadyCommunities

Got a spare 10 minutes? That's all it takes to decide on one small action you can take (for yourself or others) to be 'Risk Ready' this winter...