

LOCATION: Derry City and Strabane District Council; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

LEAD ORGANISATION: Resilience Team (Local Government)

DATE: 2013 – Present

PROJECT PARTNERS: Derry City and Strabane District Council; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

PROJECT FUNDER: Department for Communities

REPORTED BY: Regional Community Resilience Group



Community Pilot: “Prepare, Adapt, Strengthen”

KEYWORDS: Community Resilience, People and the Built Environment, Emergency Planning, Infrastructure

This case study focuses on pilot projects which worked with communities to address a broad range of risks and resilience strategies.

Introduction

The Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) was established in 2013 by the Department for Infrastructure and Local Government to bring together statutory and voluntary partners for emergency planning. Initially focused on flood response, the RCRG has since expanded to work with 50 communities to enhance resilience to flooding and extreme weather, which has been escalated by climate change.



Pilot Projects

From Jan – July 2024, the RCRG funded two Community Resilience Group (CRG) pilot projects, led by Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC). These pilots aimed to address a broad range of risks and resilience strategies, work closely with existing resilience groups, and advocate for increased budgetary provision for these groups.



Key Outcomes

- **Community-led engagement** ensured that local populations were active participants in resilience strategy development.
- **DCSDC set a baseline for understanding community risk and resilience**, using a questionnaire scoping exercise with eight groups.
- **DCSDC created a response protocol for local risks** and engaged council officers to integrate community input into council workstreams, through two workshops.
- **MEABC gathered insights into what resilience means locally for two rural communities**, through interviews, and using a Q&A template to identify specific issues and resilience sources. This was later discussed with council officers to develop a “resilience toolbox” for communities.



MEABC Community Workshop (MEABC)

Pilot Outputs & Legacy

Pilot Outputs

- **Highlighted the importance of community resilience** and the need for a whole of society approach.
- **Recommended the need for sustained funding streams** to build relationships and networks that are embedded in preparedness, response, and recovery arrangements.
- **Lessons learned from the participating communities were gathered** through two concluding workshops.
- **The pilot groups have begun connecting local resilience groups** with each other and local government.

Legacy of the Pilots

- **These groups were key to the RCRG’s business case** for central coordination, expanding resilience efforts, and securing consistent funding.
- **Strong community resilience networks and well-defined protocols are vital** to mitigating the impacts of and improving response and recovery from extreme weather and other risks.
- **The pilots produced valuable models** that can be utilised to ensure coordinated multi-agency approaches to preparedness and responses, and demonstrated the importance of co-production.