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Dear Colleague

A short guidance note on voluntary sector engagement is now available on the UK Resilience website. The guidance note provides some suggestions to support Category 1 responders' and their voluntary sector partners' work when considering collaborative arrangements.

The Government acknowledges the hugely important role the voluntary sector has in supporting the statutory services in response to emergencies. Experience shows that active engagement of the voluntary sector in emergency preparedness work through planning, training and exercising, will enable them to deliver a more effective service in the event of a major emergency.

The National Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum, in partnership with the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, has produced a short guidance note, which may assist Category 1 responders and their voluntary sector partners when entering into collaborative arrangements. By establishing the most appropriate organisational framework, the voluntary sector can be properly considered in the planning process. The guidance provides a checklist that partnerships may want to consider for inclusion in supporting documentation. This will help to ensure that the expectations of each organisation are understood fully from the outset and that agreed services can be planned and, when needed, delivered effectively.

The guidance can be found at <http://www.ukresilience.info> and is attached. It should be read in conjunction with the statutory guidance *Emergency Preparedness* and non-statutory guidance *Emergency Responder & Recovery* that accompanies the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Yours faithfully,

Kerry Williams

Civil Contingencies Act & Local Response Capability Team

Local response gateway: preparing together

