

Grenfell Debrief update

As per the Learning and Improvement Protocol for the Partnership following the declaration of a Major Incident, a strategic multi agency debrief should be held after the incident. Following a meeting on the 22nd September of senior stakeholders from the main agencies involved in the incident it was agreed to ask NPOCC to facilitate the debriefs. This was for the following reasons;

- An independent facilitation of debriefs,
- To maintain the precedent and good practice that we have had following other major incidents in London where NPOCC have provided the debrief facilitation
- To ensure the use of a recognised and experienced debrief technique for such a significant debrief.

An initial set of 7 debriefs (to cover each of the partnership plans or protocols invoked in the response) were scheduled for Nov / Dec 2017 but were postponed at NPOCCs request to allow for more time to develop the Terms of Reference, engage with the inquiry, investigation and inquest and to seek independent legal advice on the intended course of action.

The legal advice was obtained by LRG outlining the intention to hold a series of 7 independent debriefs facilitated by an independent body. The advice was obtained from a London based QC with experience in public inquiries following major incidents but not involved in the inquiry or having provided advice to any of the responding agencies following the Grenfell Tower fire. Their advice was received in late February 2018.

Upon re-approaching NPOCC to agree and finalise the Terms of Reference they have now formally written to LRG to advise that they are unable to facilitate the debriefs in relation to the Grenfell Fire. We have separately approached the legal team of the inquiry to seek their view on any conflict with their work. They have replied that it is up to the partnership what it feels it needs to do under statutory duty and it would be wrong for them to get involved. We have also engaged with the police investigation team at the outset of this process who likewise did not express a view that would prohibit a debrief.

LRPB considered the possible options available to the partnership in May and narrowed down our options to 2. Independent staff from one of the partnerships organisations with an accredited debrief regime conduct the debriefs in the original fashion we had intended to, or, another LRF is commissioned to conduct a peer review of the plans and frameworks invoked in the incident to provide any learning from their perspective. The former was preferred option.

Since LRPB, LRG have been in discussion with the Public Health England national Training and Exercising team who have staff trained in the same methodology as NPOCC to conduct debriefs. These staff were not part of the Grenfell Fire response and therefore can fulfil the independent facilitator role required. They have agreed to facilitate the 7 debriefs for us and have provided dates in the weeks commencing 9th & 16th July. We are now finalising the Terms of Reference, finalising the dates and organising venues for the debriefs to take place.

The LRF are requested to note the progress and to promote attendance at the debriefs amongst their staff as required.

London Resilience Group, May 2018