



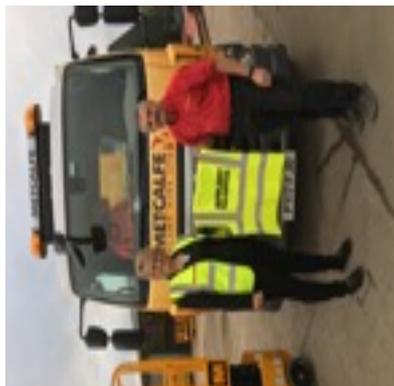
APPLEBY
EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

1. This is the Annual Report for the Appleby Emergency Response Group for the year ended February 2018.
2. The year saw considerable progress in the development of the Group and its activities. We were extremely grateful for the donation of funds remaining from the Appleby Flood Relief Fund which helped us to recruit and pay for a Project Coordinator on a temporary basis. Her main priority was to prepare and submit an application for funding from Cumbria Community Foundation to support the Group in buying emergency equipment and to secure the post of Project Coordinator until the end of October 2020.



3. The application was successful and we were awarded £21,568 (Year 1 - £12,568, Year 2 - £4,500, Year 3 - £4,500). Donations in kind were also received from Waitings, The NFU, Penrith Lions and Metcalfe Plant Hire. Eden District Council also provided sand to fill sandbags and ACT made a donation of £150. The Group now has the necessary equipment to help the community plan and prepare for and recover from future emergencies in cooperation with the emergency services.



4. We have developed an Emergency Plan that sets out how the Group will respond to future emergencies, principally flooding. This has been approved by the Environment Agency, Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council.
5. A team of volunteers has been recruited to help residents before, during and after a flood. Volunteers have been assigned specific areas of the town to support in emergencies. They have made contact with the vast majority of residents likely to be affected by flooding to introduce themselves and to gather information about any specific needs individuals may have.



6. A dedicated website for the Group is now under development which will help people to obtain advice, information and contact points for dealing with emergencies. We also have a Facebook page with over 400 followers.
7. The Group responded to the flood that mainly affected the Sands area of the town on 22 November 2107. This involved advising residents about the announcement of a flood alert and offering help in erecting floodgates and providing sandbags to them. This event enabled us to test our emergency procedures and we learnt valuable lessons from it for the future.
8. Thank you to all Volunteers for coming forward to support the group and the time and commitment given to Appleby Emergency Response Group is very much appreciated.
9. Finally, thanks go to the Project Coordinator, Mandy Morland, for her energy and determination since her appointment in helping to establish the structure of the Group and develop its identity.

Appleby Emergency Response Group

February 2018