

Case Study – Community Flu Pandemic Planning

Background

In August 2005 the Parish of Chinnor in Oxfordshire engaged in a Community Led Plan, supported by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC). ORCC have continued to support the village to address the actions from the Community Led Plan, including Affordable Housing, Community Transport Youth activities and with upgrades to both the Village Hall and Parish Centre. In March 2008 the Vice Chairman of the Environmental Committee attended an Asian Flu Awareness briefing by the Primary Care Trust, which motivated her to develop the "Operation Four Candles" Influenza Pandemic Contingency Plan which has been adopted by the Parish Council, supported by the whole community, and rolled out in Chinnor and the clustering parishes.

Summary

"Operation Four Candles" Influenza Pandemic Contingency Plan was developed - supported by Parish Council and whole community. ORCC organised a seminar to motivate and support Oxfordshire communities to develop a contingency plan. The Parish Council also set up a Grant to fund in the first instance and ORCC funded the Seminar and support staff. Key actions/impacts:

- 30 representatives from Oxfordshire attended the Seminar
- A template for village-wide Emergency Plan was developed
- A volunteers and Street Friends Database was developed – showing which volunteers were willing to cook, drive, babysit and dog walk etc.
- Gaps in provision have been addressed. Buildings/ resources have been identified (the provision of hot meals and breakdown of the service utilities).
- Networking and the implementation of Post Pandemic Planning and support for the community.
- This model is applicable across a diverse range of emergency situations and could be part of the Communities Resilience Plan into the future.
- Good Practice has been shared nationally through the Rural Community Action Network and the project has received a great deal of media attention which has motivated the community and increased communication.

Who was involved and what were the outcomes?

- ORCC staff
- Chinnor Parish Council and staff from the Village Centre
- The whole community of Chinnor and surrounding villages
- Representatives from all the Voluntary Organisations and Businesses
- The Primary Care Trust, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust, local GPs, Primary Schools

Key Learning Points

- Good practice shared across the county
- Uncertainty reduced in community
- Emergency planning is improved and the vulnerable taken into consideration
- Predetermined list of procedures and responsibilities ensures appropriate action is taken
- Volunteers, resources and accommodation identified
- Community updated and informed via Parish Council Website and Village newspaper "the Chinnor Pump"
- Flu Pandemic Contingency Plan developed
- Seminar held to encourage communities to develop contingency plan
- Media attention has helped improve community engagement.

Further Information

A copy of the Flu Pandemic Contingency Plan can be found at the following link:

http://currentaffairs.chinnorparishcouncil.org.uk/blog/_archives/2010/11/9/4675725.html#attachments

Contact details

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