

A4.1.5 Health Advisory Group

a) Role

Bring together all relevant health expertise, normally after the initial health impacts have been addressed by the Scientific Technical Advisory Cell (STAC).

b) Terms of Reference

- To prepare a health monitoring and protection strategy.

c) Chair

Chaired by Director of Public Health (Northumberland Care Trust).

d) Membership

Representatives from:

- Castle Morpeth Borough Council – Principal EHO
- Northumberland Care Trust
- Health Protection Agency and Regional Services
- Other agencies as required, e.g. Food Standards Agency

e) Strategy

- Maintain normal health services.
- Establish extra health services if required.
- Monitor and mitigate any adverse health effects arising from the incident.
- Ensure public and all those affected are informed about any health implications.

f) Method

- Reopen or replace any health facilities seriously affected by the incident.
- Provide information to the public through the media, website, NHS Direct, GPs and other health facilities. (Liaise with Communication's Group)
- Support community based welfare initiatives.
- Ensure relevant monitoring is undertaken to reassure and/or treat.
- Receive support and information from the STAC (if operational).

g) Issues

Evacuation, monitoring resources, panic, widespread concerns, drinking water, food, health services becoming overwhelmed, emotional and mental health impacts.