



London Communities
Emergencies Partnership



LCEP Impact Report 2025

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Welcome from Our Co-Chairs

We are delighted to share this year's Impact Report on behalf of the London Communities Emergencies Partnership (LCEP).

When LCEP was established, we set out to do things differently. Our ambition was to build trust, networked knowledge, inclusion, and compassion - placing people rather than agencies at the heart of emergency planning, response, and recovery. Now at the end of our third full year of operation, it has been heartening to see the progress made.

Feedback from our partners this year has highlighted how LCEP is widely regarded as a vital advocate and connector, linking voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) organisations with statutory resilience partners. We are increasingly recognised for our ability to bring organisations together quickly and support early mobilisation during emergencies, enabling timely information and knowledge sharing.

Our collaborative and inclusive approach has strengthened trust across partners, improving coordination between response planning and delivery. Through advocacy, signposting and representation, LCEP helps bring the voice of VCFS organisations, and the lived experience of communities disproportionately impacted by emergencies, into preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

We are grateful to all our partners, including **London Boroughs Faiths Network, London Resilience Unit, Greater London Authority, City Bridge Foundation, London Funders, Protection Approaches, British Red Cross and many more**, for their ongoing support and contribution to our collective effort.

LCEP only works because the partners around the table see their role in making the partnership a success. Thank you for being a part of it.



Geethika Jayatilaka
Chief Executive
London Plus



Robyn Knox
Director
VCS Emergencies Partnership



Building
Trusted
Connections



Sharing
Knowledge
and Insight



Strengthening
Preparedness

About the London Communities Emergencies Partnership

The London Communities Emergencies Partnership, or LCEP, brings together charities, faith groups and community organisations across London to help them, and the communities they support, prepare for, respond to, and learn from emergencies.

Through this work, we strengthen whole-society resilience and play a proactive role in shaping London's resilience system. We bring people together, champion community insight, support greater equity and justice in resilience, and influence how the system works in practice.

As a partnership co-chaired by [London Plus](#) and the [Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership \(VCSEP\)](#), LCEP acts as a trusted source of information and point of connection. We build relationships, share knowledge and insight, and strengthen preparedness across hundreds of organisations - from grassroots groups to national responders - so that when emergencies happen, support reaches the people who need it most, when they need it most.

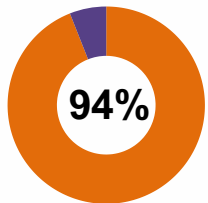
Our History

The response to COVID-19 and the Afghan and Ukrainian resettlement crises demonstrated both the strength of London's communities and the need for better coordination between local, voluntary, and statutory partners during emergencies.

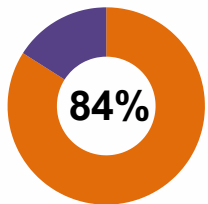
Building on London's strong existing networks, LCEP started operations in 2023, supported by the [Greater London Authority \(GLA\)](#), [City Bridge Foundation](#), and [London Councils](#). The purpose was to keep people connected and to strengthen the resilience of the voluntary, community, and faith sector, helping London respond quickly, compassionately, and effectively whenever a crisis arises.

The Unique Role of LCEP

At LCEP, we occupy a unique position within London's resilience system, bringing the right people together at the right time, creating trusted spaces where organisations can build relationships, share insight, and strengthen London's collective ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.



agree that LCEP fills an important gap in the resilience system that would otherwise remain unaddressed.



agree that LCEP effectively represents and addresses their concerns and priorities in wider resilience planning.

Many partners reported the most valuable thing they gained from LCEP in 2025 was the opportunity to connect with others, such as with voluntary, community, and faith sector organisations and emergency response organisations.

Others highlighted the value of insights, information, and knowledge shared through LCEP, alongside practical support and advice, access to timely updates, and opportunities to take part in training and exercises.

“LCEP has filled a gap which has brought similar minded organisations together which wasn't available previously.”

“We've really valued the network events as a way of checking in with peer organisations across sectors combined with the opportunity to gain insight from them on specific geographies, approaches or themes.”

“They have been super supportive and inclusive from my experience and are always open to collaborate and explore potential ideas.”

“Keeping us informed on a timely basis, connecting with other organisations and being there when needed so we don't have to shoulder the responsibilities in a crisis alone.”

Our Year in Numbers

Growing our Partnership



Over **400** people from **200** organisations across **all** London boroughs make up the partnership.



Strengthened partnerships with **32** equalities organisations, amplifying diverse voices and embedding equity across London's resilience system.

Communications and Reach



Launched a WhatsApp Community Group to strengthen connection and coordination, generating **71** posts and **610** partner clicks in its first five months.



Partners felt LCEP's communications were timely, relevant, and kept them informed on resilience developments.

"LCEP are quick off the mark for informing us about emerging threats and incidents."

Knowledge and Insight



This year we built knowledge and skills through our quarterly network calls, each attended by **69** partners on average.



Led **3** After Action Reviews to reflect on past responses and identify future improvements.



Shared knowledge with London's charities, faith groups, and community organisations through **14** partner emails, **54** London Plus newsletter topics, contributions to **14** partner newsletters, and **20** new blogs and web pages.

Strengthening Preparedness



£6,400 distributed to **8** local organisations to run community resilience projects.



We engaged the voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) through exercises, roundtables, and webinars to strengthen their emergency preparedness and capabilities.

How Does LCEP Activate in an Emergency?

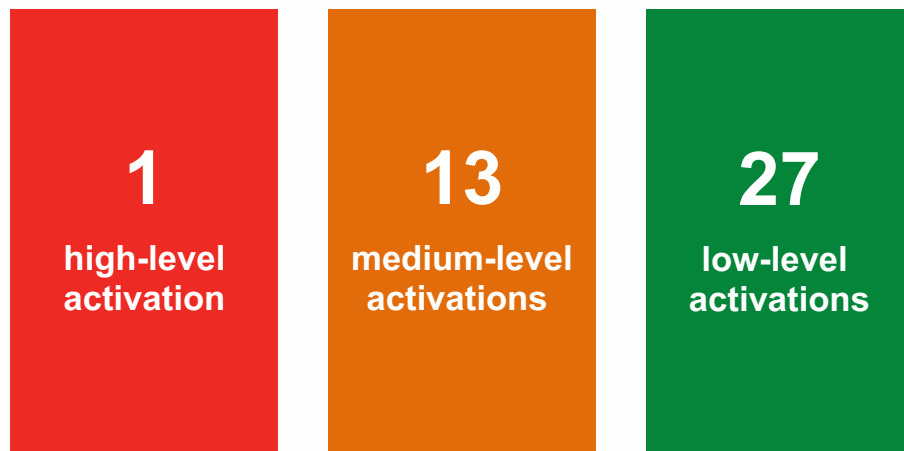
In 2025, we updated our [Activation Plan](#), strengthening our focus on adaptability around locally available resources, alongside known and perceived impact on communities.

When LCEP is notified of an emergency, and regularly throughout each emergency, we quickly determine the required activation level by assessing specific conditions to understand how much support is needed to reduce the impact on communities.

LCEP's activation operates at three levels: low, medium, and high, reflecting the level of coordination, communication, and support required.

Emergency activations in 2025

In 2025, LCEP was activated in **41** emergencies across London:



What does activation look like in practice?

June - August 2025: Heat Health Alerts

We supported preparedness and response to heat health alerts by sharing preparation and warning messages through our communications channels, hosting a webinar in June, and joining the [London Resilience Communication Group \(LRCG\)](#) to coordinate messages and ensure the needs of the most vulnerable were considered during a period of increasing risk.

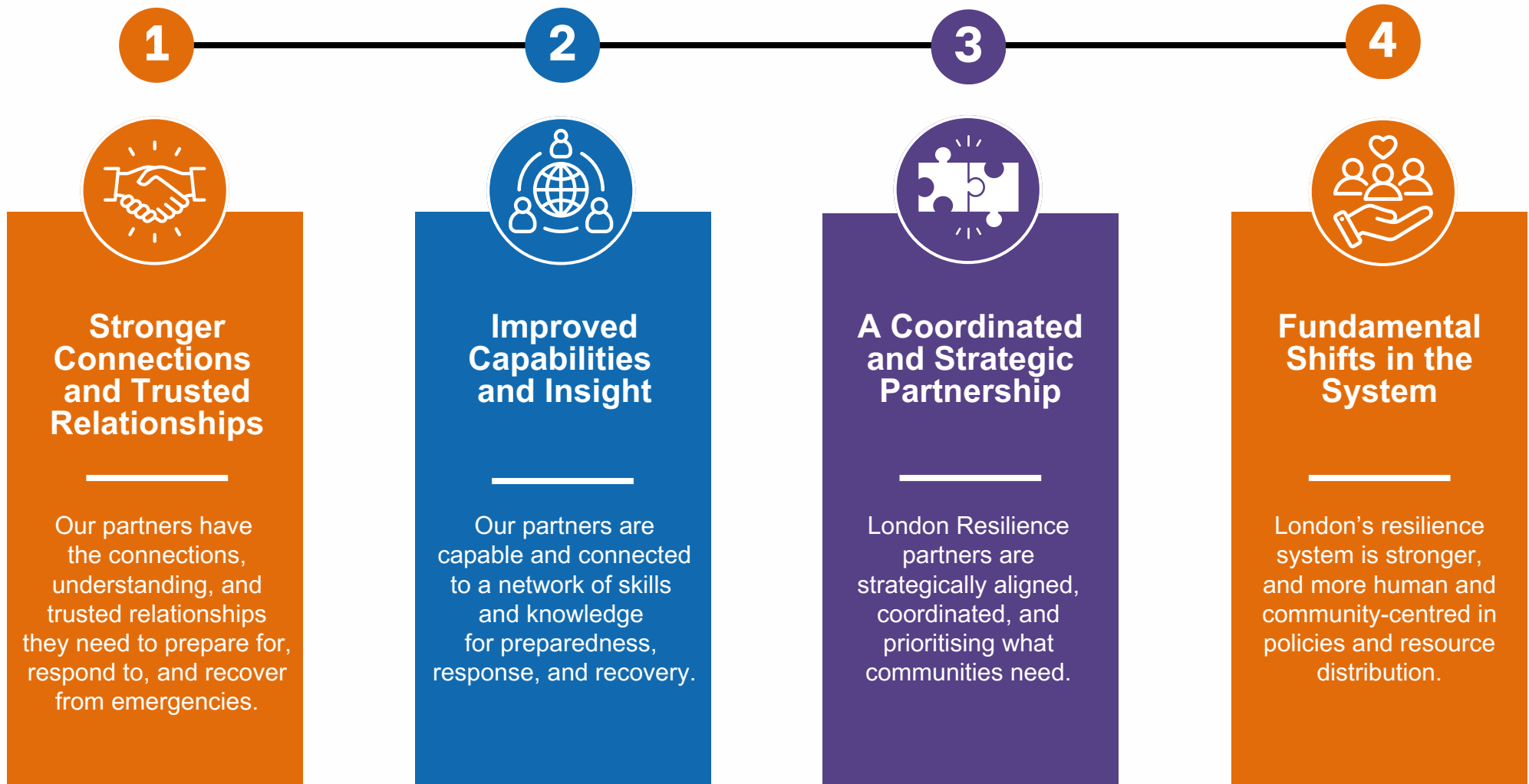
July - September 2025: Anti-Migrant Tensions and Social Cohesion

During a period of heightened anti-migrant tensions and growing risks for communities, we increased our level of involvement, including sharing solidarity messaging, publishing blogs, advocating with [London Resilience](#) partners, and gathering insight from partners through roundtables and meetings to inform discussions.

September 2025: Battersea Fire

Following a fire in Battersea, we supported local coordination by connecting a charity, [Little Village](#), with the local authority. Little Village helps pass high-quality items from one family to another, including clothes, toys, and equipment, ensuring babies and young children have access to the essential things they need.

What Good Looks Like



Building Trusted Connections

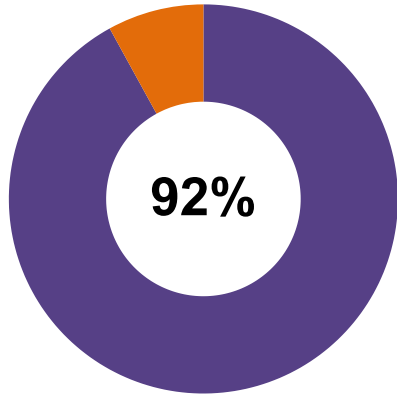


We work closely with our partners to build and maintain strong relationships, ensuring that the right connections and relationships are in place before they are needed.

By facilitating open and transparent connections that enable partners to exchange knowledge and resources, we help create a state of collective readiness so that London's communities can effectively manage and recover from crises.



Partners feel more connected



reported feeling better connected to a network of organisations and people who can support them during an emergency.

Partners highlighted LCEP's role as a connector and convenor, helping them build and maintain meaningful links across the resilience system.

One partner noted they **"would not have prioritised emergency preparedness connections beyond our borough because of the costs were it not for LCEP"**.

Partners also reported growth in their connections with others through LCEP activities such as events or introductions.

33% reported making several new connections, and almost half (49%) reported making a few new connections.

Feeling more connected has also increased partners' confidence about knowing where to turn in an emergency. One partner explained, **"we know exactly where to go"**, while another said **"there is a strong network that we can go to for support at any time should we need to"**.

"LCEP is incredibly important to building a culture of support and connectedness across London."

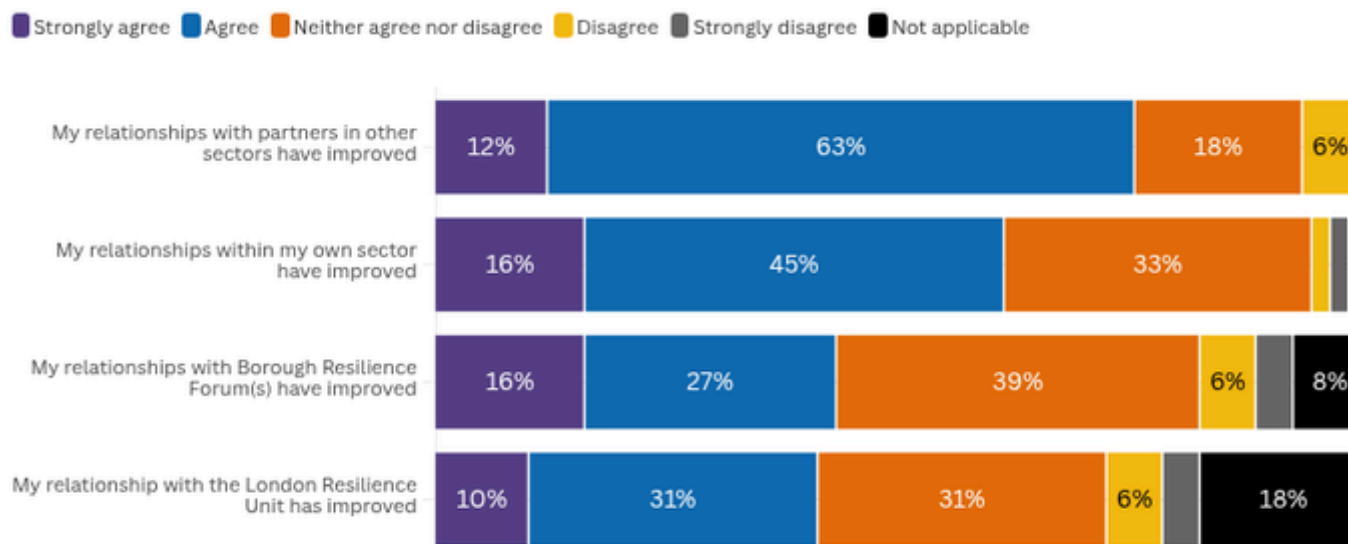
"From no connections to a plethora of knowledge and networks."

"I feel that the support and solidarity is there and that I know where to turn to in a crisis."

Partners report stronger relationships across and within sectors

Partners reported improvements in their relationships with others, particularly across sectors. In 2025, 75% of partners agreed to some extent that their relationships with organisations in other sectors had improved, compared with 62% in 2024.

Improvements in relationships were also reported within partners' own sectors (61% in 2025, up from 43% in 2024), and nearly half of partners reported improved relationships with Borough Resilience Forums, an increase from 36% in 2024.



Data note: One blank response was excluded from analysis. The total number of respondents for this question was $n = 51$.

Partners are collaborating to strengthen preparedness and emergency response

As a result of their engagement with LCEP, partners reported working with others to strengthen local emergency preparedness, respond to acute and ongoing emergencies, and build more effective partnerships across the resilience system.

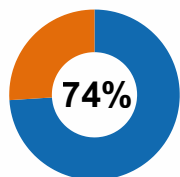
Case Study: What Does Building Trusted Connections Look Like in Practice?

In July 2025, 20 years after the 7/7 attacks in London, LCEP brought resilience partners together with [Survivors Against Terror](#), following the publication of their report [7/7 - In Their Words](#).

What was our impact?

The meeting created a powerful learning space for partners to share their own experiences of community-led recovery, and to reflect on how recovery within London's resilience systems could be improved and made more survivor-focused. Insights from the discussion were also fed into the consultation on the Pan-London Recovery Framework.

The meeting directly generated 14 new connections between partners, highlighting the role LCEP plays in bringing people together and creating space for meaningful collaboration. Voluntary, community, and faith sector partners were able to influence recovery frameworks at a London-wide level, strengthening people-centred and community-led approaches to recovery.



74% of attendees reported the meeting was very useful or useful.

“Hearing from survivors, their families and others affected in the community 20 years later emphasised how far the resilience sector needs to go in enhancing recovery efforts. Their experiences reminded us of the importance of people-centred focus required after a major incident, and that recovery is not just about rebuilding. It's about people whose lives are dramatically affected and struggle to find a comfortable place back in their communities.”

Elizabeth Mayer - Programme Manager, LCEP

What did we learn?

- Bringing partners together in focused multi-agency spaces builds trust and relationships and creates space for organisations with lived experience, such as Survivors Against Terror, to share learning with fellow voluntary, community, and faith sector partners.
- Lived experience needs to be visible and welcomed in the development of policy and practice, and aligning voluntary, community, and faith sector organisations with statutory partners helps shape more inclusive and effective resilience systems.
- Recovery planning is stronger when it centres the needs of those who experience an emergency.

Strengthening Relationships with Resilience Forums in London

What are Resilience Forums?

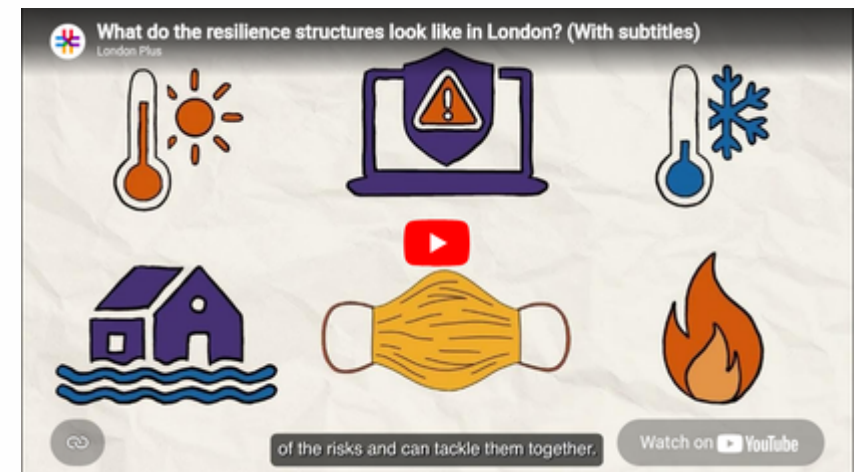
In London, the **London Resilience Forum (LRF)** supports the capital's preparedness in the event of emergencies, and coordinates the activities of a wide range of organisations to achieve this.¹ **The London Resilience Partnership (LRP)** underpins this work, bringing together organisations who have responsibilities for preparing for and responding to emergencies. Much of the partnership's work is carried out through dedicated groups and sector panels which report into the London Resilience Forum.¹

The **London Resilience Unit (LRU)** supports both the London Resilience Forum and the London Resilience Partnership by coordinating and delivering resilience services for the LRP and London's local authorities.²

LCEP is part of the London Resilience Partnership. Through LCEP, charities and community groups are directly connected to the wider resilience system, ensuring their perspectives are heard and that they are actively involved in wider resilience conversations.

As well as the London Resilience Forum, each local authority area maintains a **Borough Resilience Forum (BRF)**. These forums support local cooperation, coordination, and information sharing. LCEP works with community partners to support their engagement with their local Borough Resilience Forum, helping to strengthen resilience at the community level.¹

Learn more about how the resilience structures in London work to make our capital safer.

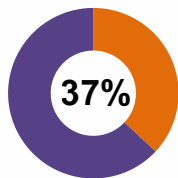


Click [here](#) to watch the video.

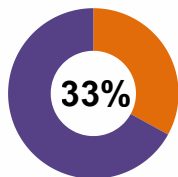
Strengthening Relationships with Resilience Forums in London

Why are relationships with them important?

Strong relationships between resilience forums and charities and community groups are vital for effective and inclusive emergency planning. The voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) brings local knowledge, trusted networks, and insight into communities that statutory services may not reach, helping to ensure support is coordinated and reaches those who need it most.



37% of our partners reported being actively engaged with their Borough Resilience Forum in 2025.



33% reported active engagement with the London Resilience Forum.

In 2025, partners also noted improvements in their relationships with **Borough Resilience Forums**. While fewer partners reported improvements in their relationships with the **London Resilience Unit** compared with 2024, established connections already exist, providing a stable foundation for ongoing collaboration and more targeted support where it is most needed.

“London Resilience Forum is willing to engage with and support the voluntary sector. They are willing to celebrate the voluntary sector both internally and externally.”

What do good relationships between resilience forums and the VCFS look like in practice?

Good relationships between resilience forums and the VCFS are built on trust, regular communication, and genuine involvement in planning and decision-making, ensuring the sector is both informed and empowered to shape local resilience priorities. This is vital because the VCFS brings community insight, relationships, and specialist expertise that strengthen and ensure preparedness and response is informed by real community need.

In the last year, we have continued to work closely with the London Resilience Forum to strengthen and develop our relationship. While still growing, it is a constructive and collaborative partnership in which we represent the VCFS across multiple subgroups, work together on projects such as the Heatwave Train-the-Trainer initiative, and act as a two-way bridge between London’s VCFS and the London Resilience Partnership.

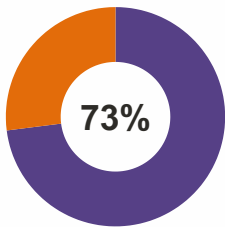
Sharing Knowledge and Insight

Sharing knowledge and insight is a key focus of our work at LCEP. This helps our partners better understand the needs of London's communities and the risks they may face.

Information is shared through a range of channels, ensuring our partners have the information they need to act quickly, collaboratively, and effectively.



Partners reported accessing unique insights through LCEP that informed action



73% reported that LCEP provided them with information or insights they wouldn't or couldn't have accessed elsewhere.

Partners particularly valued insights that offered local and community-level intelligence, including practical updates on acute and ongoing emergencies, alerts, and community resilience. One partner noted, **“We wouldn't have engaged with supporting SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocols) if it had not been introduced to key partners by LCEP”**.

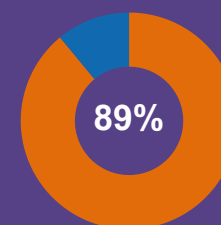
Others described gaining a clearer understanding of how the wider resilience system operates, including how voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) organisations support emergency response and recovery. This helped partners better position their own roles within emergency planning and response.

“We gain insights in areas where our organisation may not deliver or experience these specific problems. That helps us consider issues around or beside our work and how we might be able to align our focus, community resilience, and volunteer mobilisation to support these situations which are not typical or primary to us.”

Partners also valued LCEP's focus on equalities and disproportionately impacted communities, noting that this learning would not have been accessible for them without LCEP.

“LCEP's focus on equalities in emergencies and emergency preparedness is not something we'd have been involved in beyond our borough if not for LCEP.”

Even where information may technically have been available elsewhere, partners emphasised the value of LCEP's role in centralising and curating timely and relevant insights, with one partner reflecting, **“I could have found information elsewhere but why would I when I have great information at my fingertips produced and supplied by LCEP”**.



89% agree that LCEP insights have informed actions they have taken, demonstrating that the information shared through the partnership is not only valued but actively used.

Case Study: What Does Sharing Knowledge and Insight Look Like in Practice?

In October 2025, **London Resilience** hosted a 'Show & Tell' event, bringing together partners from across the multi-agency resilience system to showcase capabilities during emergency response.

LCEP represented the voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) during the planning stages and coordinated partner involvement - raising awareness of how the sector can improve the experience of communities affected by emergencies. The partners involved were:

- **First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY)**
- **Commonside Community Development Trust**
- **Hopscotch**
- **British Red Cross**
- **Protection Approaches**
- **London Boroughs Faiths Network (LBFN)**
- **National Emergencies Trust**

Together, partners delivered or supported workshops and showcased their capabilities to London Resilience partners.



“The panel provided a valuable reaffirmation of the experiences of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations during an emergency, highlighting these in a way that made clear to Local Authorities present, a range of actions that would enhance the coordination of response efforts.”

Kelsey Ludbrook - London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Case Study: What Does Sharing Knowledge and Insight Look Like in Practice?

What was our impact?

LCEP convened a panel showcasing local and national charities' lived experience of responding to emergencies, including what they do, the challenges they face, and what has worked well in practice. LCEP supported partners to share their insight and ensured a broad range of voices were heard directly by resilience professionals, including from organisations who support communities that are often disproportionately impacted by emergencies.

The panel created visibility and connections for smaller and specialist charities that would not otherwise have had access to influence the wider resilience system. Through LCEP, **London Resilience** partners heard first-hand why the voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) matters, not only during an emergency, but throughout recovery.

The event highlighted LCEP's role in bringing partners together, amplifying voices, and sharing practical insight and learning from across the sector. It also led to further engagement, including invitations for LCEP to present at future meetings and to support community resilience development work.

What did we learn?

1

Sharing diverse perspectives helps build a fuller picture of how emergencies affect communities.

2

Relationships and access to information need to be built before an emergency, not added on afterwards.

3

LCEP plays a key convening role for the voluntary, community, and faith sector, creating space for partners to share insight rather than speaking on their behalf.

Strengthening Preparedness



Tackling emergencies can be daunting, but by strengthening our partners' skills, knowledge and capabilities, we help ensure they are better prepared to respond effectively.

We gather learning from emergency responses and share it widely, supporting partners to apply lessons in practice and strengthen future responses. In doing so, we help communities to not only respond in the present, but also learn and prepare for future emergencies.

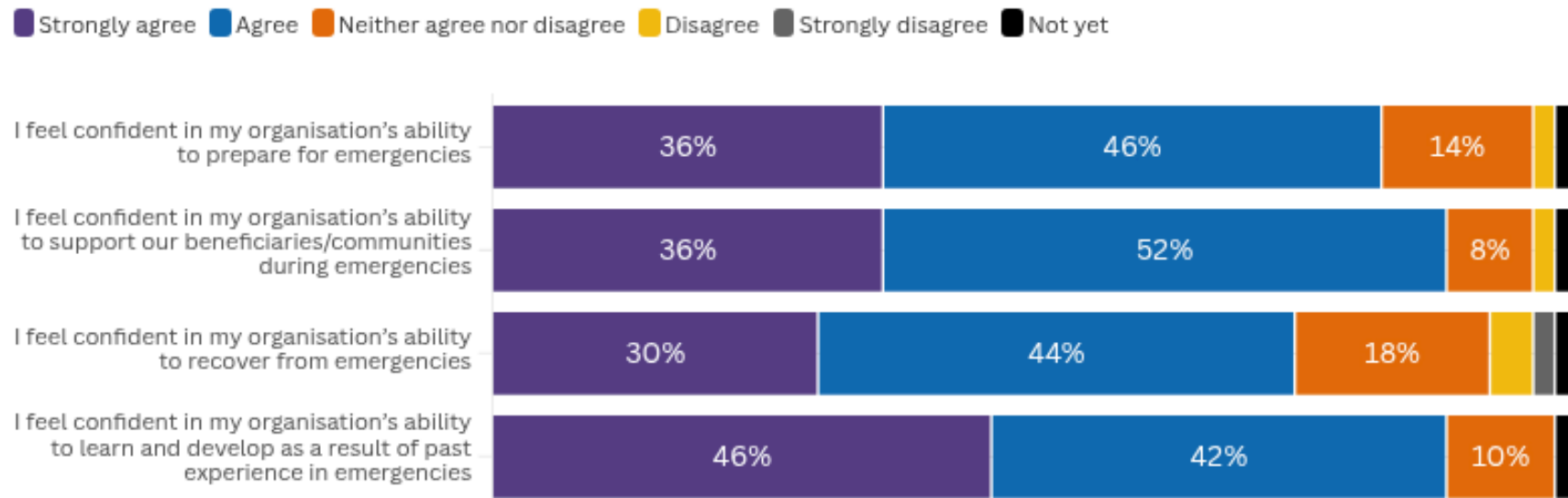
Alongside the events and insights we shared to strengthen preparedness, we also distributed £6,400 to 8 local organisations to attend and deliver community resilience projects, embedding learning and capability at a local level.



Partners are confident in their ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and learn from emergencies

Partners reported improvements in their confidence to prepare for emergencies, with agreement increasing from 59% in 2024 to 82% in 2025. High levels of confidence were also reported in partners' ability to support beneficiaries and communities during emergencies, with 88% agreeing.

Almost three-quarters (74%) of partners felt confident in their ability to recover from emergencies, and confidence in learning and developing from past emergencies was similarly strong, with 88% of partners agreeing.



Data note: Two blank responses were excluded from analysis. The total number of respondents for this question was $n = 50$.

Partners are confident in their ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and learn from emergencies

Partners reported taking a range of actions as a result of their engagement with LCEP. These included implementing change within their organisations, such as updating strategies, increasing internal capacity to **“improve community resilience”**, and developing plans for emergency response and recovery.

“We have taken the community resilience approach element and incorporated it into our new 5 year strategy, building on the insight around the racist riots of the previous years and incidents of hate crime. This has led to one of our key change areas being to help foster & support social cohesion.”

“We have developed our internal resilience networks to be able to respond more meaningfully should an incident / emergency occur.”

Others reported cascading learning by delivering or signposting to training and exercises, and sharing knowledge and insights with others. Partners also described actively connecting and collaborating with other organisations, as well as increasing their engagement with local communities and organisations.

“We have plans to train our community engagement team in emergency response structures, so they can support community engagement sub-groups.”

Some partners also reported taking initial or preparatory actions, such as reading materials provided by LCEP or following up on contacts, to support longer-term preparedness.

Case Study: What Does Strengthening Preparedness Look Like in Practice?

The findings presented in this report are based on local observations obtained during Exercise PEGASUS. These findings may not concur with other regions or with the wider analysis being conducted on UK-wide findings from Exercise PEGASUS, or government policy. A cross-government post-exercise report will be published in winter 2026.

In September through to November 2025, [the national government and UKHSA ran a national pandemic preparedness exercise](#), Exercise PEGASUS. It aimed to test strategic decision-making, consider inequalities, and local exercising of capabilities and response.

As part of this, [London Resilience](#) required panels to complete workbooks contributing to the national picture of pandemic preparedness. They also held mock [Strategic Coordination Group \(SCG\)](#) meetings, which are strategic forums typically led by statutory partners (such as the police or fire services), bringing together multi-agency senior members of staff to jointly make decisions and share information during emergencies.

With close engagement with official resilience systems in London, LCEP was included in the development of the pandemic preparedness exercise. Working alongside the [London Boroughs Faiths Network \(LBFN\)](#), LCEP brought voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) partners together to inform the exercise in a meaningful way.

Following this, LCEP held VCFS subgroup meetings for national and local partners throughout the exercise to contribute lived experience, insight, and community perspectives into the London picture. LCEP staff used this intelligence to effectively represent the VCFS during the mock SCGs.

Working with [Protection Approaches](#), LCEP invited specific organisations such as the [Afghanistan and Central Asian Association](#) and the [Asian People's Disability Alliance](#), to observe the final mock SCG, using Participatory Funds to ensure they were able to take part. During the session, these organisations shared how emergencies affect their communities, and highlighted both strengths and gaps in current approaches, demonstrating the value of their expertise and lived experience within a strategic decision-making forum.

What was our impact?

Through LCEP's involvement, national and local charities and equalities organisations were able to contribute directly to Exercise PEGASUS, sharing how emergencies affect their communities and highlighting the skills, knowledge, and lived experience they bring to preparedness planning.

By ensuring that alternative perspectives were embedded within strategic planning discussions, rather than sitting outside formal processes, LCEP's convening role made it possible for partner insight to be incorporated into official exercise design and delivery.

Case Study: What Does Strengthening Preparedness Look Like in Practice?

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What did we learn?

1

Community insight and lived experience strengthens strategic planning when embedded within exercise design, and involving a variety of organisations provides a breadth of insight that one single agency cannot.

2

Multiple mechanisms for gathering insights matter. The use of workbooks, subgroup meetings, and observation sessions created multiple routes for partners to contribute, ensuring insight was not dependent on a single meeting or individual.

3

Lived experience changes the quality of conversations and decision making. When communities most affected by emergencies are in the room, the conversation can shift from planning to real-world impact. This helps highlight inequalities and practical barriers that statutory partners may not otherwise see.

“It was brilliant to be involved in this exercise and to work so closely with partners from across the different sectors. Having the opportunity to feed in the voices and experiences of our partners felt incredibly valuable, and it was particularly excellent to see London Resilience include equalities observers, something we were proud to support.”

Inclusion in Emergency Preparedness

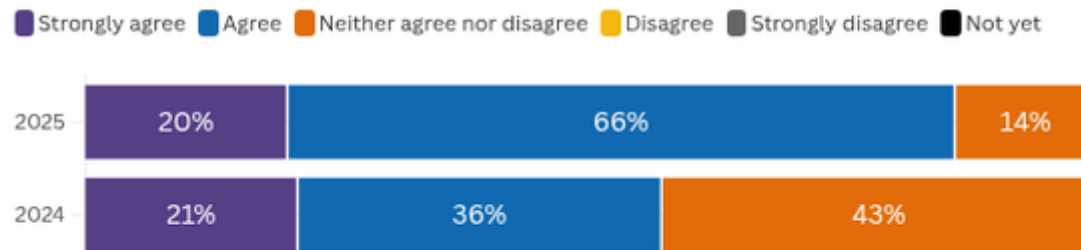
Ensuring that London's diverse communities are included in emergency planning, response, and recovery is key to building a resilient city. This year, we have focused on influencing the strategic approach to resilience in London, emphasising a people-centred approach and the importance of engaging communities meaningfully in resilience work.



Partners are taking action to better include and support disproportionately impacted communities in emergencies

86% agree that their understanding of how to plan for the needs of disproportionately impacted communities in emergencies has improved, up from 57% in 2024.

"I have improved my understanding of how to plan for the needs of disproportionately impacted communities in emergencies"



Data note: Two blank responses were excluded from analysis. The total number of respondents for this question was $n = 50$ in 2025, and $n=42$ in 2024.

Nearly half of partners (46%) reported making changes to their emergency planning to better include disproportionately impacted communities.

Of those who had made changes, many focused on updating organisational processes, including policies, guidance, strategies, and risk registers, to embed inclusion across all aspects of emergency planning.

"We have updated our risk register to include specific local impacts and local disproportionalities, and we consult with our Local Authority's Tackling Disproportionalities Board when we review major plans."

"Completed an equality impact assessment to ensure our service considers support provision for all impacted communities and how we can better raise awareness with and reach into disproportionately impacted communities."

Partners are taking action to better include and support disproportionately impacted communities in emergencies

Other partners reported engaging and consulting local communities and organisations directly, ensuring that their voices informed emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. This often overlapped with addressing accessibility and inclusion in service delivery. One partner described:

“We hosted a gas leak scenario co-design session for residents that was live translated to Arabic to hear further thoughts on what preparedness communication residents would like to see in the future.”

Some partners highlighted the value of sharing insights and learning from past experience to strengthen future planning and response in relation to disproportionately impacted communities.

Our partners are actively taking steps to make emergency planning more inclusive, turning ideas and insights into action. While significant progress has been made, we recognise that lasting systems change takes time, and embedding the inclusion of disproportionately impacted communities across London’s resilience structures is an ongoing effort.



Case Study: What Does Inclusion in Preparedness Look Like in Practice?

Through ongoing work with voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS) partners, LCEP has built strong relationships with equalities organisations across London. During periods of increased tension and hate crime in Summer 2025, one organisation approached us to raise concerns about risks facing LGBTQIA+ communities.

In response, LCEP worked with [The Outside Project LGBTQIA+ Centre](#) and [Protection Approaches](#) to convene a Roundtable in July 2025. The roundtable was designed as a safe space where organisations supporting LGBTQIA+ communities could share challenges, risks, and lived experience openly.

LCEP focused on creating an environment where partners felt heard and respected, and where their insight could be shared without needing to justify their experiences. The discussion generated input on community trust, safety, communication, and how marginalised groups often create parallel response structures when they do not feel included in official systems.

What was our impact?

Insight from the roundtable informed LCEP's preparedness and advocacy work, including insight briefings, meetings, and wider resilience discussions on hate crime, solidarity messaging, and shared responsibility.

LCEP also convened a hate crime-focused partner meeting in November 2025, further creating space for affected communities and organisations to shape conversations and influence preparedness and response thinking.

“Thank you to LCEP for bringing LGBTQIA+ community spaces and organisers together to discuss how we work together and could potentially work together during an emergency. The increased risk of hate crime due to the rise of the far right is a concern for many small businesses, events organisers and community groups who often work in isolation or with little formal training or understanding of what support and structures are available to assist in planning, risk assessing or responding to emergencies. The roundtable was very helpful and something we hope to build on.”

Carla Ecola - LGBTQIA+ Outside

What did we learn?

- Trusted relationships enable disproportionately impacted communities to raise risks early
- Safe spaces enable lived experience and sensitive insight to be shared
- Preparedness is strengthened when equalities perspectives inform planning, communications, and coordination

Influencing Systems Change Across London's Resilience Landscape

LCEP plays a key role in shaping London's strategic approach to resilience, championing a people-centred model and advocating for meaningful community engagement.



Influencing Systems Change Across London's Resilience Landscape

Embedding a people-centred approach in resilience planning

This year, LCEP directly influenced system-level thinking through sustained advocacy on person-centred approaches (PCA) to resilience. Following two PCA workshops with senior decision makers earlier in the year, **LCEP Co-Chairs Geethika Jayatilaka and Robyn Knox** facilitated a dedicated session for senior stakeholders at the London Resilience Forum in November 2025. This session explored principles of prioritising equity, recognising differences, designing with people, embedding lived experience, and committing to learning and adapting.

LCEP produced eight recommendations to embed PCA across London's resilience structures, with three progressing within 60 days and individual agencies already taking forward specific actions.

While further work is needed to embed these principles consistently across the system, this represents a meaningful step away from individual examples of good practice towards collective change.

Sustaining long-term systems change

LCEP's role centres around creating the conditions for systems change, bringing the right voices into strategic spaces, translating community insight into system-level conversations, and advocating for approaches that centre equity and lived experience. We recognise that systems change takes time, however by convening cross-sector leadership and ensuring community perspectives shape decision-making, LCEP continues to shift how resilience is understood, planned for, and practiced across London.

Shaping strategic responses to division, racism, and community tensions

London Plus and LCEP also played a convening and influencing role through the Strength and Solidarity Roundtable in November 2025, which brought together leaders from the **voluntary, community, and faith sector (VCFS), the Greater London Authority (GLA), national government, funders, and the Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard**. The roundtable created space to discuss strategic approaches and practical actions to address racism, anti-migrant hostility, and community tensions.

Through these discussions, the roundtable identified shared priorities including resource sharing, trust-building, strengthening skills to hold difficult conversations, and better support for communities directly experiencing emerging divisions. It also highlighted how inconsistent funding, a lack of shared infrastructure, and limited coordination continue to undermine cohesive working. Importantly, the role of VCFS infrastructure organisations was recognised as essential to the system, not just as delivery partners, but as key actors in sustaining long-term cohesion and shaping alternative, community-led narratives in response to harmful rhetoric.

Co-Chairs' Reflections on 2025

At the end of a busy year, it has been helpful to pause, look back, and reflect on what we have learned and how this will guide our plans for the year ahead.

What have we learned?

Inclusive approaches to resilience require trust

Our work has always recognised that communities impacted by structural inequalities are disproportionately impacted by emergencies. This past year has brought further insights into the ways in which marginalised communities remain disconnected from emergency response and resilience systems in London, often due to limited trust and access. There is a strong need to develop trusted relationships between communities and formal resilience structures, alongside building understanding, skills, and engagement capabilities within emergency services as well as the wider voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS).

The development of the new Equalities Partnership, led by colleagues at

Protection Approaches, will provide further opportunity to progress, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with them to help accelerate change and progress.

Resilience must address chronic as well as acute emergencies

This year has also highlighted the growing reality of “chronic emergencies” - persistent crises such as hate crime, hostility, and community tensions that sit outside traditional emergency frameworks but significantly impact social cohesion. This year, we heard rising concerns from partners working with migrant, LGBTQIA+ and other minoritised communities, alongside calls for more coordinated action and clearer leadership to address division and strengthen unity across London.

In the coming year, we will continue to amplify the voices of those experiencing inequality and hostility, and work closely with partners to support efforts that strengthen social cohesion and a sense of belonging for all London's communities.



Co-Chairs' Reflections on 2025

Alignment and cross-sector collaboration matter

We have always focused on the importance of cross sector collaboration, and whilst the growth in initiatives and networks in the resilience space reflects London's strong commitment to working in this way, it also brings challenges in terms of the capacity of partners to engage with the increasing flow of information and activity.

Our partners consistently emphasise that what they value most is meaningful connection: trusted spaces for dialogue, practical collaboration, and clear coordination across stakeholders.

This requires strong relationships between multiple entities, including the statutory sector, formal responders, and the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS), with an emphasis on trust-building and mutual recognition of value - a continued focus for us moving forward.

What's next?

LCEP's critical role in London's resilience ecosystem has been highlighted by a number of evaluations and impact reports this year, demonstrating the value that our partners and stakeholders place on our work.

We recognise that the changes we want to see in the resilience system are not "quick fixes", and that investing in building trusted relationships, strong coordination, and cross-sector collaboration can feel particularly challenging during times of financial insecurity and constraint.

Yet we can see that the foundations are in place and this gives us confidence that we can, collectively, overcome this challenge.

In the year ahead, we look forward to working with our partners, existing and new, to build a resilience system that is centered on the needs of London's communities and ready for any challenge London may face.



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LCEP Advisory Group

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- Deesha Chadha (Faith and Belief Sector Panel)
- Andy Fearn (Protection Approaches)
- Albie Stadtmiller (Voluntary Action Camden)
- Keith Morgan (Voluntary Action Camden)
- Molly Sweeney (Groundwork/Communities Prepared)

Guest Speakers

- Molly Sweeney (Groundwork/Communities Prepared)
- Tom Watkins (VCSEP)
- Cliff Flemming (London Resilience)
- Steve Miller (London Boroughs Faiths Network)
- Marnie Freeman and Chioma Wuche (Neighbourly Lab)
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