



# NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESILIENCE

BUILDING SCOTLAND'S RESILIENCE TO NATURAL HAZARDS

## Spring 2019

### An introduction from our Business Development Manager...

*Our vision is to create and integrate knowledge of Natural Hazards for a safer and more resilient Scotland."*

*We aim to do this through the creation of collaborations between policy makers, researchers and practitioners.*

*By bringing these groups together, we can create:*

- *a clear path to impact for researchers,*
- *evidence based knowledge for sound policy development*
- *practical, evidence based solutions for practitioners*

Recently, a key focus for the NCR has been the revision of our governance structure and clarifying our vision and mission to ensure stronger core messaging and direction. Looking ahead, our programme of work for 2019 has been designed to assist the five IEM principles and deliver greater value within the NCR's core strategy.

In the past we have kept a fairly broad agenda, funding projects and delivering quality work across a diverse range of activities and areas. But, for the next 2 years, the NCR will take a more focused approach looking specifically at *"The effect of Natural Hazards on people within the recovery phase."*

Therefore, we will be holding events to actively seek out current issues in industry, practice and communities within the context of the effects of natural hazards on people within recovery. This will be coupled with the identification of existing research and will directly feed into the creation of a gap analysis which will be used to assist with finding solutions to current challenges, informing policy and commissioning new research where there is none to be found.

The NCR's ability to facilitate collaborations between academia, government, practice and third sector creates a strong platform to effectively achieve real results and make positive impacts on today's problems. For instance, our work so far this year has seen us link with The Centre for Climate Justice at the Glasgow Caledonian University, launching the conversation around the effects of climate change on mental health in the light of a research gap within Scotland, the UK and internationally (more details on pg. 2).

Watch this space as we'll be keeping you updated as our new programme of work develops, funded projects deliver and the gap analysis progresses.

You can get involved by contacting us at [nationalcentreforresilience@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:nationalcentreforresilience@glasgow.ac.uk)

**Ailsa Mackay, Business Development Manager**

## Mental Health and Climate Justice Knowledge Exchange

The Centre for Climate Justice held its Mental Health and Climate Justice Knowledge Exchange event on 19th March at Glasgow Caledonian University. The event was funded and attended by the NCR. It was an opportunity for mental health practitioners, policy makers, academics, activists and individuals from affected communities, to discuss ways to improve the resilience of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to the mental health impacts of climate change.

The event was opened by Professor Tahseen Jafry, Director of the Centre for Climate Justice and Ailsa Mackay, Business Development Manager for the NCR. This was followed by presentations by postdoctoral researcher Harriet Ingle and Scottish Flood Forum recovery Operations Manager, Paul Hendy. They looked at the psychology of climate change and climate change from a resilience perspective and the impact on communities and individuals, respectively. Informative and passionate, these presentations sparked great discussion amongst attendees who were then given the opportunity to ask questions to this panel of experts.



The afternoon was equally fascinating with further presentations from Gladys Ngwira, a Mental Health Nurse, and Dr Russell Jones, Public Health Programme Manager for Glasgow Centre for Population Health.

The room was then divided into smaller groups, and tasked with trying to answer the big question of how we develop a deeper understanding, build resilience and enhance existing service provision to tackle the mental health impacts of climate change.

The outputs from the event will be presented at the World Forum on Climate Justice, being held at Glasgow Caledonian University, on 19-21 June 2019 and a summary report will be published on the NCR website.

Overall the day was a huge success, engaging attendees in the big issues of climate change and the impacts on individuals and their mental wellbeing. Now that this conversation has been started it must continue, this event made it clear that there are big gaps in knowledge and understanding in this area and a lot of critical work to be done. The day succeeded in highlighting the harrowing truth of how climate change and its consequences are affecting populations, both nationally and internationally, and this is likely to get worse if its not addressed.

## Farmers are a resilient lot?



There are many stereotypes and preconceived ideas about farmers. I was recently told that “farmers are a resilient lot”, so how true is this and why does it matter? Farmers certainly do just get on with things, it is the nature of their way of life, there is work to be done and it gets done. But does this mean that they are resilient? According to the latest UK figures, on average, one farmer per week is committing suicide, so clearly something is going wrong.

Late last year I had the opportunity to attend a Dumfries and Galloway dairy women’s network meeting and had the opportunity to ask them what they thought about their resilience as farmers, the consensus seemed to be they are not feeling very resilient at the moment. The impact of external pressures surrounding uncertainty to do with Brexit, the public perception of their sector and having to deal with impact of extreme weather conditions are all

having an undermining effect on their personal resilience as well as affecting the daily work of running a farm.

Recently when speaking with health and social care professionals working in rural areas about their experiences of the farming community a GP practice manager told me a story. The night before an operation a farmer went in for her pre-op check and when given the option of whether to stay in overnight or go home, she chose to go home. She worked an overnight shift on her farm before coming in at 6 o’clock the following morning for her operation. To quote another health practitioner in the room “they just get on with it”.

But this is not resilience, coping as best you can and getting on with the business of farming until you can’t manage any more is not sustainable either for individuals or the farming sector as a whole. This is why having resilient farms matters. To be resilient farmers need to be able to maintain their capacity to farm and we should care about this because they produce our food.

I am currently developing a research project to investigate this problem in collaboration with University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine and with the support of partners including NFU Scotland, SEPA and Dumfries and Galloway Rural Health Team. The aim is to identify mechanisms with the potential to support farmers to develop and maintain their resilience to the challenges and uncertainties that the farming sector faces.

**Dr Helen Baxter, NCR Research Associate**

## NHP Resource Pack

The NCR recently funded a project by the Natural Hazards Partnership (NHP) to create a virtual Resource Pack, collating all of the published research carried out across the NHP and making it easily accessible. The material available via the Resource Pack includes, reports and publications, natural hazard information science notes, overview leaflets and infographics on a wide array of topics. To explore the work that is on there, simply visit:



<http://www.naturalhazardspartnership.org.uk/resources/>

## ClimateXChange - UKCP18

Following publication of the results of the most recent UK climate projections (UKCP18), the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation hosted a workshop to present the findings and to begin exploring how this information might be used going forward to help combat climate change. UKCP18 is now the most up-to-date assessment of how the climate of the UK might change over the 21st century.

As well as the workshop, ClimateXChange have also published a blog post looking at the findings of UKCP18, namely the predicted increase in the frequency of heatwaves. You can read the blog post here:

<https://www.climatexchange.org.uk/blog/large-increase-in-projected-heatwave-frequency-for-scotland-under-new-uk-climate-projections/>

Or for more information on UKCP18 and its findings visit the website: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp>



You can keep up to date with our activities via our Twitter page @ResilienceScot and the NCR website: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/>

Or contact us at [nationalcentreforresilience@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:nationalcentreforresilience@glasgow.ac.uk)

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