

# THE ROLE OF KEY AGENCIES IN A FLOOD INCIDENT

There are a number of organisations who play an important role in the response to flooding.

## West Yorkshire Police

- Responsible for co-ordinating the response of all public bodies
- Evacuate the public from properties at risk
- Provide advice and assistance at the scene
- Control traffic to prevent bow waves from flooding properties and vehicles from breaking down in floodwaters.

## The Environment Agency (EA)

- Statutory responsibilities in maintaining and operating flood defences,
- Provide flood forecasting and flood warnings.

## Leeds City Council

In support of the Police and EA, Leeds City Council's Peace and Emergency Planning Unit (PEPU) is responsible for co-ordinating the Council's initial response to a major flood incident and implementing its emergency procedures. The Council has a diverse range of potential roles in a flooding incident which may include the following:

- Setting-up of rest centres to accommodate and feed members of the public
- Organising vehicles to evacuate members of the public and transport them to rest centres
- Identifying vulnerable individuals and establishments potentially affected by flooding to ensure appropriate provision is made to address their needs
- Implementing the closure of roads and diversion routes in conjunction with the Police and supplying appropriate signage
- Clearing debris from the highway
- Clearing blocked street gullies and possible assistance in pumping out flooded premises
- Investigating flooding from or around watercourses or land drainage and taking emergency action to deal with flooding as appropriate
- Arranging for sandbags to be supplied to mitigate the flooding of properties (in specific circumstances) from the Council's limited stocks

- Providing environmental health advice and support *after* the floodwaters have subsided, including pumping-out pools of stagnant water, clearance of sludge and drying-out in houses and flats, rodent infestation and animal welfare
- Setting-up a public information helpline to complement the EA's *Floodline* and the Police's Casualty Bureau
- Developing and co-ordinating a recovery strategy to deal with the longer-term consequences of a major flood
- Co-ordinating the voluntary sector response