



UK Resilience
Academy

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UK RESILIENCE ACADEMY STUDENT ENGAGEMENT DAY

Dear National Resilience Committee,

The UK Resilience Academy is pleased to provide you with a report regarding the recent School Engagement Day which we held on the 23rd June 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Rosehanna Chowdhury
CEO, UK Resilience Academy



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Executive Summary

On 23 June 2026, the UK Resilience Academy (UKRA), operated by Serco on behalf of the Cabinet Office, delivered a Youth Engagement Day for young people aged 16–18 years. The event was designed to introduce participants to the concepts of resilience, emergency management, humanitarian response and public service, while providing an insight into the organisations responsible for protecting communities and responding to emergencies across the United Kingdom.

The programme brought together practitioners from the UK Resilience Academy, the British Red Cross and government resilience professionals to deliver an interactive and educational day that combined presentations, practical exercises and scenario-based learning. The event successfully achieved its learning objectives, generated highly positive feedback from participants and accompanying educators, and demonstrated a clear demand for further opportunities to engage young people in resilience education.

The success of this pilot initiative has led to the decision to develop a wider programme of Youth Engagement Days convened by the Academy.

Introduction

The United Kingdom faces a range of increasingly complex risks, including severe weather events, cyber incidents, infrastructure disruption, public health emergencies and humanitarian crises. Building a resilient nation requires not only effective emergency response capabilities but also an informed and engaged population that understands the principles of preparedness, response and recovery.

Recognising the importance of developing future resilience capability, the UK Resilience Academy established a Youth Engagement Day aimed at introducing young people to the resilience sector and encouraging greater awareness of the critical role played by



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emergency responders, government departments, humanitarian organisations and community groups in protecting society during times of crisis.

The event formed part of UKRA's broader commitment to building resilience across society and supporting the objectives of the UK Resilience Framework through education, engagement and skills development.

Purpose and Objectives

The principal aim of the Youth Engagement Day was to inspire young people to explore the world of resilience, emergency response and humanitarian action by developing their understanding of how organisations work together to protect people, communities and the nation during emergencies, while also introducing future education, volunteering and career opportunities.

The programme was structured around a series of learning objectives that sought to improve participants' understanding of resilience and emergency management. By the conclusion of the day, participants were expected to understand the meaning and importance of resilience, recognise the role of the UK Resilience Academy and British Red Cross in supporting communities before, during and after emergencies, identify the range of organisations involved in emergency response, and understand how the UK Government coordinates national emergencies through COBR. Participants were also expected to develop an understanding of the stages of emergency response and recovery, appreciate the importance of teamwork and communication during incidents, reflect on their own role in building resilient communities, and gain awareness of future educational and career opportunities within the resilience and public service sectors.

Programme Delivery

The Youth Engagement Day was delivered over a full day programme and commenced with registration and a welcome session before introducing participants to the work of the UK Resilience Academy and the importance of resilience within modern society. Participants then took part in an interactive icebreaker designed to encourage engagement and collaboration.



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A dedicated session on COBR provided an overview of how the Government coordinates responses to major national emergencies, enabling participants to gain an understanding of strategic decision-making during times of crisis. This was followed by a comprehensive British Red Cross workshop focused on humanitarian response and community resilience, which offered practical insights into the support provided to affected communities before, during and after emergencies.

Following lunch, participants engaged in a disaster risk reduction exercise using a risk factors card game that explored the causes and consequences of disasters and encouraged discussion around prevention and mitigation measures. The day concluded with a scenario-based problem-solving exercise and question-and-answer session led by resilience practitioners, allowing participants to apply the knowledge they had gained throughout the programme and consider how different organisations would respond to a developing emergency. The event ended with a certificate presentation and the collection of participant feedback.

Outcomes and Impact

The Youth Engagement Day successfully achieved its stated aims and objectives. Participants demonstrated a significantly improved understanding of resilience, emergency management and the structures that exist to protect communities during times of crisis. Many participants reported that they had not previously appreciated the complexity of emergency response arrangements or the extent of collaboration required between organisations during major incidents.

The practical nature of the programme proved particularly effective in helping participants understand the challenges associated with emergency decision-making. Through collaborative exercises and scenario-based discussions, participants developed their communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills while gaining an appreciation of the importance of leadership, coordination and information sharing during emergencies.



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The event also provided valuable exposure to career pathways within resilience and public service. Discussions with resilience professionals, humanitarian practitioners and government representatives generated considerable interest among participants and encouraged them to consider future opportunities within emergency planning, humanitarian assistance, public service, risk management and related professions.

Beyond individual learning outcomes, the programme demonstrated the wider societal value of resilience education. Participants left with a greater awareness of personal preparedness, community resilience and civic responsibility, supporting the broader objective of creating a society that is better informed and better prepared to respond to future challenges.

Participant Feedback

Feedback gathered from participants and accompanying teachers was overwhelmingly positive. Participants consistently highlighted the interactive nature of the programme as one of its greatest strengths. The opportunity to work through realistic emergency scenarios, engage directly with practitioners and learn about real-world incidents helped bring the subject matter to life and maintained a high level of engagement throughout the day.

The British Red Cross session and the COBR presentation were particularly well received, with participants expressing a greater understanding of both humanitarian response and government crisis management. Many participants commented that the programme had introduced them to careers and opportunities they had not previously considered.

Teachers accompanying the group praised the professionalism of the delivery team, the relevance of the content and the educational value of the programme. Feedback indicated that the event complemented existing curriculum subjects, including citizenship, public service and social responsibility, while providing students with practical insights into areas that are rarely explored within traditional classroom settings.



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Overall satisfaction levels were exceptionally high, with participants reporting that the programme was engaging, informative and inspiring. The feedback collected demonstrated that the event successfully achieved its objective of raising awareness of resilience while encouraging young people to consider their future role in supporting safer and more resilient communities.

Future Development

The success of the inaugural Youth Engagement Day has demonstrated both the value and demand for resilience-focused educational engagement with young people. As a result, the UK Resilience Academy intends to expand the programme and establish a series of similar events across the United Kingdom. The e-learning developed specifically for the Youth Engagement Day is also being revised to be provided free of charge to young people via the UK Resilience Academy website, this is due to be released in September 2026.

Future programmes will seek to broaden participation, engage a wider range of resilience partners and provide additional opportunities for young people to explore resilience-related education, volunteering and career pathways. Lessons identified from the pilot event will be incorporated into future delivery to ensure continuous improvement and maximum impact.

The e-learning developed specifically for the Youth Engagement Day is also being revised to be provided free of charge to young people via the UK Resilience Academy website

The next Youth Engagement Day is scheduled to take place on Autumn 2026 in London. This event will build upon the success of the inaugural programme and provide an opportunity to engage a larger and more diverse group of young people from across the capital and surrounding regions.

Conclusion



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The UK Resilience Academy Youth Engagement Day represents an innovative and effective approach to engaging young people in resilience education. The programme successfully introduced participants to the principles of resilience, emergency management and humanitarian response while providing practical opportunities to develop skills in teamwork, communication and problem-solving.

The event was delivered safely, achieved its learning objectives and received highly positive feedback from both participants and educators. Most importantly, it demonstrated that young people are eager to learn about resilience and are keen to explore opportunities to contribute to the safety and wellbeing of their communities.

The UK Resilience Academy believes that initiatives such as this play an important role in developing the next generation of resilience professionals, volunteers and informed citizens. The positive outcomes achieved through this pilot programme provide a strong foundation for future expansion and support continued efforts to build a more resilient United Kingdom.