

**Scottish Mountain Rescue
General Meeting**

**Tuesday 30th March 2021
Online Zoom Meeting**



**Agenda Item 13d:
5 Year Plan**

5-year Strategic Plan for SMR / MR in Scotland

Our vision

A network of mutually supportive, independent voluntary Mountain Rescue Teams across Scotland capable of responding, individually or collectively, to locate, assist and save the lives of people who are lost, injured, missing or otherwise in need of help.

Scottish Mountain Rescue

Guided by member teams, Scottish Mountain Rescue will provide

representation
support and training
resources, *including funding*
wellbeing framework

to enable member teams to provide a world class voluntary rescue service.

Mountain Rescue in Scotland is made up of

- Individual, independent Mountain Rescue Teams and
- Scottish Mountain Rescue the national body coordinating and responding to the views and wishes of 24 member Mountain Rescue Teams.

Our values

Excellence in all activities, a standard that we work to maintain and enhance.

Committed community of independent teams working collaboratively for the benefit of all.

Free at point of need world class MRT response: Any Hour Any Day and Any Weather.

Constructive engagement with any person or organisation that may benefit mountain rescue in Scotland.

We recognise the right of all individuals to support and rescue without judgement.

We recognise the right of all individuals to respect without bias based on differences of any kind.

Guided by SMR Risk analysis in Appendix 1

Main Actions for SMR

1. Represent the collective view of the community of member teams.
2. Arrange and support meetings in which member teams each have an equal voice.
3. Deliver a training programme appropriate to the needs of member teams.
4. Secure funding for a training programme beyond the end of the UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund, likely within this strategic plan period
5. Support and enhance individual teams' fundraising capabilities and develop complimentary national funding to support member teams.
6. Reinvigorate the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Mountain & Cave Rescue in Westminster
7. Develop a Cross Party Group in Holyrood.
8. Support and encourage resilience in the community of member teams

- 9. Monitor and respond to changes in operating environment
- 10. Communicate appropriate messages to relevant audiences
- 11. Develop and maintain well-being resources for individual MRT members
- 12. Seek appropriate resourcing to enable SMR to deliver these actions

Actions for each financial year will be reviewed at the general or annual general meeting closest to the end of each financial year.

Appendix 1 SMR Risk Analysis 2019-24

SMR Risk Analysis 2019 – 2024	
Strengths	Challenges
<p>A proven voluntary SAR service free of charge at point of delivery; delivering a respected, world class, front-line public service in the face of increasing demand and challenges with well trained, organised & motivated MRT volunteers.</p> <p>Utilisation of local, or SMR community skills and resources.</p> <p>Working with partners to ensure that Scotland is well prepared/equipped to respond to and recover from major emergencies.</p> <p>Supporting the economically vital tourism and outdoor recreation sectors in Scotland.</p> <p>Supporting a safer, healthier and greener Scotland</p>	<p>No self-assessment (peer review) of core capabilities by MRT.</p> <p>Some roles eg Water rescue are unclear and require clarity.(is this a challenge for us?)</p> <p>Volunteer workloads are rising with increasing training/ administration/ charity/ reporting and recording duties with associated increasing level of cost.</p> <p>Need for increased capacity in SMR to improve governance, project delivery and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Need to increase funding and diversity of income streams</p>

<p>Highly regarded nationally and internationally</p> <p>Very good local working relationships with Category 1 Emergency Responders at the Operational (Bronze) level.</p> <p>Good links at the Strategic (Gold) level with important stakeholders.</p> <p>An independent free-standing radio system for all MRTs allowing users to communicate with each other when deployed anywhere in Scotland.</p> <p>History of delivering a training programme for MRT members.</p> <p>Close working relationship with deploying authority (Police Scotland) and Scottish Government.</p> <p>Mutual support amongst and between teams</p> <p>Developing support structures for teams and team members.</p> <p>Sector leading wellbeing package</p>	<p>No review of SMR governance, succession planning, structure, organisation, financial processes or sustainability.</p> <p>SMR lacks a clear, published annual fiscal plan with clear financial priorities and responsibilities (about to resolve this)</p> <p>Branding: SMR (the organisation), MRTs and Scottish Mountain Rescue (the community) have a slightly confused national presence and identity.</p> <p>Some variations amongst and between MRTs on practice or policies.</p> <p>Expand pool of potential supporters beyond mountaineering community.</p>
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SMR Risk Analysis 2019 -2024	
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Increasing interoperability between MRTs may require agreed common good practice for training & equipment.</p> <p>Influencing forthcoming SAR-H contract from early stages to better serve MRTs</p> <p>Continuing staff posts to maintain and increase organisational capacity.</p> <p>Increasing government emphasis on community resilience and volunteering; two key areas where we have great strengths.</p>	<p>Political. change in government/minister may require urgent action to maintain funding and support.</p> <p>Economic. Public Sector funding will continue to be very challenging. SMR to provide government with evidence of the economic and social benefits of a volunteer rescue service and the savings that the voluntary approach brings along with economic and social benefits</p> <p>Economic. Likely exhaustion of UKSAR Volunteer Training Fund support for training and no successor identified.</p>

<p>Developing representation at Westminster and Holyrood and within the outdoor industry</p> <p>Unique appeal to potential funders, nobody else does what MR does.</p> <p>Development of accredited or certificated training bespoke to MR (do we aspire to this?)</p> <p>Natural affinity with large outdoor recreation population who are potential supporters.</p>	<p>Social. Increasing work/financial pressures on younger volunteers may result in an older age profile for MRT membership and gender imbalance and impact on MRTs. Wider changes in society may add in again make recruitment and retention of volunteers increasingly difficult.</p> <p>Technological. Advances particularly in drones, communications, GPS systems and emergency location devices are likely to be significant and may change SAR response.</p> <p>Legal / regulatory. Increasing burden of legislation/regulation for voluntary organisations to comply with.</p> <p>Environmental. Likely to face increasing severe weather and flooding events due to climate change. This is likely to lead to increasing requests for SAR, particularly in non-mountain areas.</p>
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