

Young People's Flood Manifesto

These are our ideas for how to make things better in the UK based on our experiences. We want you to listen to us and take action to make sure that young people are better supported before, during and after floods.

Reference as:

Young People's Flood Manifesto 2015, Children, Young People and Disasters: Recovery and Resilience, Lancaster University and Save the Children

<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/cyp-floodrecovery/outputs>

Flood warnings need to be clearer, so people understand them and know what to do

- Awareness could be raised via TV, newspaper, radio, social media like Facebook, and through music.
- Information should be put up in the community, like it is for fire safety, for example up on notice boards in Starbucks or in telephone boxes.
- Warnings shouldn't come when the floodwater is up to your waist - then it's too late!

Flood defences and protection need to be better

- Drains should be cleared out properly.
- More sand bags should be available - before it starts to flood.
- Build more flood defences and barriers.
- There should be more grants for flood gates and things to help make your house more resistant – and help with the red tape.

We should help each other more, especially those more vulnerable than you

- Families and communities should have a flood plan.
- Every household and school should have a 'flood box' with supplies, including food and water.
- Families with pets should be prepared to protect them, e.g. having a dog raft.
- Community patrols should look out for people still in their houses - and make sure there aren't any forgotten roads.
- Look out for people who need more help, like young children, older and disabled people.
- Create local community flood points – like fire evacuation points.
- Develop a Community Flood Fund – to raise money in case it floods again, to help people who are flooded to provide safety, comfort, and blankets/supplies.

Schools should support children during and after flooding

- During floods schools could provide areas for evacuation and food, open their grounds for parking, and offer sandbags.
- Schools should communicate more with flooded families; they could use text messaging as people may not have internet access.
- Open IT suite after school for students to do homework.
- Set up a group for children who've been flooded so they can talk and listen to each other.
- People who were flooded will still be affected for a long time afterwards: those who weren't will forget.

Flood education should be included in schools

- There should be lessons on emergencies and floods, including how to prepare, understanding priorities when it floods, where to go, survival and first aid.
- This has to be done from primary school onwards.
- It should be done without scaring children and include how they can help the community.
- It could be done in different parts of the curriculum e.g. in Personal, Social and Health Education.
- Use assemblies to inform students about flooding.
- Teachers should have training about flooding.
- Parents should be educated about how to help children e.g. at a parents' evening.

Flood insurance should be fairer

- More independent information should be available on what insurance companies can offer.
- Insurance should be cheaper.
- Insurance companies should make sure houses are dried out properly.

There should be more recognition and help for people affected by flooding

- There should be more help from the Government for people with disabilities.
- Financial support should ensure the floods don't cause poverty, this could help with the extra cost of food and washing clothes.
- There should be recognition that floods can lead to poor health, like bad diets if people can't afford healthy food.

This Manifesto was developed by young people from The Magna Carta School in Staines-upon-Thames as part of the 'Children, Young People and Flooding' project with Lancaster University and Save the Children 2014-2015. The project has also been working with children affected by flooding in South Ferriby, North Lincolnshire. This work was funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council. To receive a copy of the final report please email the project team at: floodrecovery@lancaster.ac.uk

For more details visit the website at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/floodrecovery