

Young People and Flooding Project: Stakeholder Pledges

25th June 2015

Local and national stakeholders came to The Magna Carta School in Staines- upon-Thames to listen to the views and ideas of young people who had been affected by flooding.

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>

In response to the event and to the Flood Manifesto created by the young people, the following pledges were made:

Emergency Planners:

- Ensure that in my role as an emergency planner we always listen to the needs of those that we seek to support and to better empower communities to prepare themselves.
- Do more to understand- and raise awareness of- the specific needs of children in an emergency (especially flooding).
- Make the community plan accessible and easier to understand, carry on working to get funding from central government for flood defence.
- Continue to work hard to ensure everyone is as well prepared as possible to respond to flooding.

Environment Agency:

- Work to ensure that my colleagues at the EA hear of your incredible message; work harder to make sure our alert and warning messages are clearer and arrive in better time and finally to spread the word of your fantastic work and message to my other colleagues in other emergency planning services.
- Encourage engagement about what to do before, during and after a flood with schools and children. To also increase understanding about proposed flood defence schemes in the area and the access to ensure they will make a difference and go ahead.

Local Council:

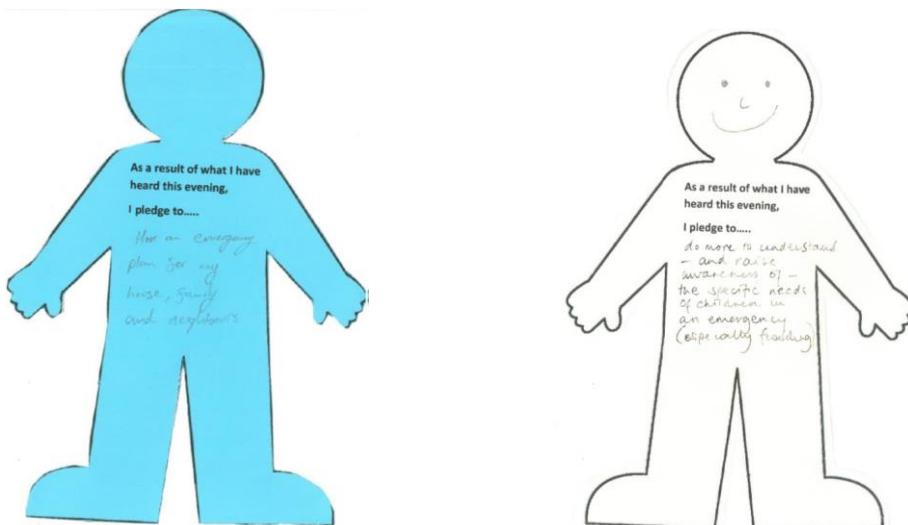
- Keep flood prevention and preparation in the minds of local politicians and partner agencies, even when people begin to forget...
- Ensure that flood defences will be built. I will ensure that a local flood plan is put in place by the local council.

Schools:

- Support our school by providing on site cover for IT facilities when the school is closed but for local students to still access work.
- Develop a scheme of work to be delivered in PSHE and Geography about flooding- preparing for and recovery from.
- Continue to support the community by keeping the school open as an emergency centre for all victims of floods.
- To develop lessons on preparing for emergencies and coping with the aftermath.
- Add more to our school's geography lessons about personal preparation for floods and the personal effects of flooding. I will use the ideas from your presentation to help me do this.
- Continue to support our children. To allow them to know there is support. I am so proud of them.
- Talk to the chairs of governors of the 13 local schools about the resources and plans for flood recovery.

National Organisations: flood forums, research institutes and charities:

- Continue recovery support well after a flood event to ensure peace of mind for residents in flood prone areas.
- Reach out to more communities in areas of high level of flooding. Thank you.
- Talk to my organisation- the national flood forum to see how we can support you the affected children during recovery and help to develop emergency plans for preparation in the future.
- Include children's voices (like yours) in our reports and research on flooding, climate change and resilience. (And make a dog raft).
- Ensure that I include children's voices in future research projects on flooding and help to raise awareness.
- Support children and young people's flood manifesto. Advocate for UK Emergencies to support children and young people.



Fire and Rescue Service:

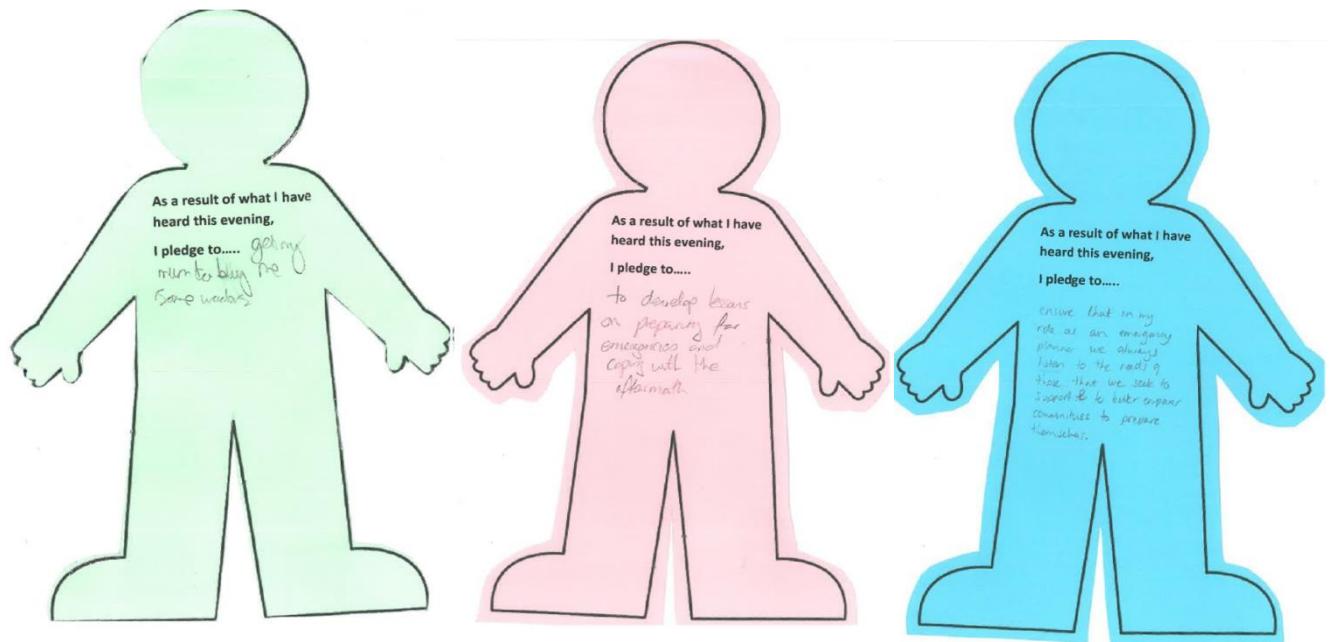
- Continue to work on a water safety strategy for Berkshire and as part of a national CFOA forum. Also introduce water safety education into schools in Berks and listen to the young people's perspective and the input they would like.
- Go back to Berkshire and identify schools in risk areas for floods. Then we will visit them and educate on flood preparation planning.
- Have a fire officer specifically posted to help communities to help themselves. This may take the form of Education, advice and maybe training.

Families: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings

- Help children and the elderly and any volunteer work needed.
- Volunteer Flood Warden.
- 1) Be more aware of our environment, 2) make contingency plans for next time and most of all 3) have empathy for "our children" - the devastation of losing "things" isn't half as bad as the memories that stay with us forever and worry our children for the future.
- Mend the boat so I can get friends and family out if need be!
- Look at my insurance documents a bit closer each year. Support and talk to children about the way they were affected.
- Continue to raise awareness by sharing our experiences.
- Support the community and help if the flooding happens again. Support those that flood again. Support any flood defence programmes.
- Have an emergency plan for my house, family and neighbours.
- Educate my children and help out in the community if the worst should happen again.
- Keep paying my contents insurance.
- Continue to support local initiatives to prevent or at least minimise impact of flooding such as Mead Lake-Thorpe park blockages.
- Keep paying my insurance to insure that I can keep my family safe for any impact in the future. To always support my child through these hard times, which I did at the time.
- Support the most vulnerable in the community and to ensure the emotional wellbeing of affected children
- 1) Look after my neighbours and 2) keep chasing the EA and local councils to carry out flood preventative maintenance.
- Help the elderly if ever needed due to flooding or those who don't have support e.g. family, friends.
- Keep my things up high so if it does flood again then they won't get ruined.
- Get my mum to buy me some waders.
- Regularly check on my elderly neighbours to make sure they are safe.
- Inform others of what I have learnt this evening so they can be better prepared.

Local Community:

- Continue to raise awareness of the situation in regard to risk of flooding and maintain contact and help with those who have experienced flooding in the past and still need ongoing support.
- Continue to offer pastoral support to those affected. Continue to administer the flood fund created by voluntary donations and prioritise it. Engage where possible in the organising flood protection initiatives. Work with other agencies and groups to make a city flood plan possible.
- Continue to lobby for the River Thames Flood alleviation scheme. To lobby for Wi-Fi at hotels and other location (churches) to be made available for children. To lobby for flood resilient housing.
- Educate my children and show understanding and support to kids affected by floods in future (personally affected by flooding 2014).
- To help the community be more safe by offering to help the stranded and needy and fix our boat that is in our garden to help give food and water etc., sand bag filling and spread the help factor in the community.
- Collate all the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the neighbours in my street. In the event of evacuation a central telephone contact should be available enabling neighbours to keep in touch.



These pledges are part of the 'Children, Young People and Flooding' research with Lancaster University and Save the Children UK, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. For more information please email floodrecovery@lancaster.ac.uk or see our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/floodrecovery