

Children, Young People and Disasters: Recovery and Resilience

Children are missing, virtually invisible to the UK emergency planning process and for disasters such as extreme weather/flooding. Where they are mentioned, children are positioned as vulnerable and consequently, problematic for emergency planners. But they can also display resilience and contribute to informing and preparing themselves, their families and their communities. Understanding children's perspectives is a vital part of building disaster resilience: children are future citizens and community members in their own right.



Working with children from two flood-affected communities, we used creative methods to allow them to voice their experiences and thoughts. Beginning with *sand play*, moving to *3D model making* and *theatre methods* we saw how young people gained in confidence in articulating their ideas for change. The outcomes were then translated into key messages for decision makers.



Project Aims



1. To understand children's experiences of the flooding; the impact on their lives, their resilience and the longer-term recovery process.

2. To discover how children can best be supported in a flood and how to enhance their resilience to future emergencies.

3. To influence emergency policy and practice to better meet the needs and build the resilience of children and young people.

Flood Manifestos: Primary and secondary aged children who were directly affected by flooding proposed plans to improve flood resilience in homes, communities, schools and wider society. These ideas were then brought together into Children's Flood Manifestos.



- . Flood warnings need to be clearer.
- . Improved flood defences and protection.
- . Children have the right to know what's happening.
- . 'Flood lessons' in schools, simulation & preparation. Train teachers about flooding.
- . Long term support groups for children who've been flooded.
- . Improved, fairer flood insurance.
- . Prevent floods causing poverty, bad diet and poor health
- . More recognition & help for people affected by flooding.
- . Support people with disabilities in floods.

Please take a copy of the Flood Manifestos!