

Children's Recommendations

In their Flood Manifestos, the children recommended improvements in essentially three flood policy and practice domains - **recovery, resilience** and **education** (we have retained most of their words here):

Recovery, health and wellbeing

- Recognise that floods cause poverty. Displaced families need help with the extra cost of food, washing clothes and transport
- Set up groups in schools for children who have been affected by floods, so they can talk and get support
- Recognise that floods can lead to poor health, such as bad diets if people can't afford healthy food or don't have the means to prepare it
- Disabled people need more specialised help before, during and after a flood

Resilience and flood preparedness

- There should be more grants to help make homes more resilient and help with bureaucratic red tape
- Support the development of community flood fund initiatives - to help people who are flooded, or may be in the future
- All families and communities should have a flood plan
- Flood warnings need to be clearer, so people understand them, and know what to do and when to act



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- Awareness should be raised using different forms of media; information should be put up in the community, as it is for fire safety

Flood education

- Flood education should be given in all schools, from Reception level onwards. There should be lessons on emergencies and flooding: how to prepare, understanding priorities when it floods, where to go, survival and first aid. Include 'flood tests', and flood simulation events (similar to fire drills). Develop flood preparation games
- Teachers need training about floods, and how they affect children and their education

Policy Implications

If we are to take the children's recommendations seriously then a fundamental shift is required in the way policy is conceived.

1. The children's and young people's recommendations for change in this report highlight important gaps in the current policy and practice around flood risk management.
2. Flood recovery and resilience must be seen as central to government in order to meet the needs of children and young people: this means involving education, health, housing, communities and local government in addition to emergency planning and flood risk management.
3. Flood policy and practice in England and Wales as currently organised, is confusing and over complex, reducing ability to address the recovery and resilience issues identified by children and young people in this project.
4. Where flood-affected children and young people are enabled to contribute their experience to flood risk management, this enhances their own recovery and resilience.
5. All children and young people are citizens in their own right and have a role in flood risk management and a right to help build family and community resilience.
6. Flood risk management will be more robust and demonstrate greater legitimacy by drawing on the perspectives of children and young people.



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