



Children, Young People and Flooding: Recovery and resilience project

The acute storms and floods of early 2014 revealed a problem which is now understood to be chronic, with 5.2 million properties now at risk of flooding in England alone¹ and according to the most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change² we can expect more severe flooding over the coming years. Children and young people can be particularly vulnerable in emergencies as they have distinct physical, developmental and emotional needs. However they can also display resilience and contribute to informing and preparing themselves, their families and their communities giving us clear insight into their specific needs.

It is vital that we understand the impact of emergencies on children and young people so that we can empower children, communities and responders to increase their resilience to emergencies and reduce the impact of future emergencies.

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.

What does the project involve?

We are undertaking research with flood-affected communities in Surrey and in North Lincolnshire. This will involve workshops with school age children and young people combining group discussions and practical activities designed to allow children to voice their experiences and thoughts in a safe environment. This approach has been successfully used before, for example in the Hull Children's Flood Project³. There will be two half-day workshops in the first and second terms and one feedback session, followed by a workshop bringing together participants and key stakeholders to share findings from the research.

Who can take part?

We want to involve as many children and young people who were affected by the flooding as possible, so please get in touch with us if you would be interested in taking part. We will be working with schools and local authorities in Surrey and North Lincolnshire to invite children and young people to take part.

¹ Environment Agency 2009

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014): Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability WGII AR5

³ www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec/sites/cswm/hcftp

What are the benefits to those involved?

Participating in the project will give those involved the opportunity to share their experiences in a safe environment and influence local and national emergency practice and policy. The workshops have been designed to be fun, interactive and enjoyable for those taking part. Also, talking about and sharing experiences with peers can potentially be helpful in the recovery from an emergency.

Participating in the project is entirely voluntary and those involved may stop whenever they choose. The project team will work closely with the schools involved to ensure that there is appropriate support in place for participants and each workshop is designed to ensure that the participants start and end the workshops positively. Support will be in place so that if any issues arise they can be addressed appropriately.

Who's organising the project?

The project is being run by researchers at Lancaster University (Departments of Sociology and Health Research) www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/sociology and Save the Children UK www.savethechildren.org.uk in partnership.

The project is being funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

Timeline:

First workshop: October/November 2014

Second workshop: February 2015

Feedback session: April 2015

Stakeholder workshop: June 2015

How can I find out more information?

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