

Flood Action Groups



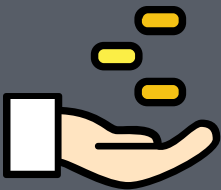
A flood action group consists of local residents meeting on a regular basis who work on behalf of the wider community alongside agencies and authorities finding ways to reduce their flood risk. Although the first step should always be to ensure your property is protected from future flood events, forming a flood action group can play a vital role in reducing the communities flood risk. The main aim of a flood action group is to help reduce the impact of future flood events and to create increased awareness within the wider community. A flood action group can be based around emergency planning and a community flood plan can be created to ensure they can actively get involved in reducing flood risk. However, flood action groups can also look at tackling issues that increase flood risk in the local area and work towards actions which improve reducing this risk and increase resilience.

Can Flood Action Groups access funding?

Once a flood action group becomes a constituted group, it may be possible to access further funding from local organisations to assist with community resilience.

A constitution is the 'governing document' of your group, clearly setting out how you intend to run your group. The document will show funders that the group is well organised if you are going to apply for grant funding.

Your local Community Voluntary Service (CVS) can assist the flood action group in becoming constituted and provide access to resources and information around running successful community groups.



Community Flood Planning

Putting a community flood plan together can be done in a few simple steps. Remember, it is always important to tailor your action plan to suit the needs of your community.

- Identify the risks and who would be responsible during a flood event
- Identify the relevant response actions e.g moving possessions upstairs, installing property level protection measures
- Identify available resources in the community to assist during an emergency
- Identify vulnerable people in the community - Who needs help/who can help you?
- Provide key contact details for Key Community Resources, the Emergency Services, Local Authorities and Environment Agency

Flood wardens' can also be appointed to monitor water levels, take the lead on community flood plans and champion community resilience.

Tackling Local Issues

A flood action group can identify and discuss issues which contribute towards reducing the local areas flood risk such as problems with nearby drains and who's responsible/who to report them to, instating flood wardens, identifying who may be vulnerable in your community and might need a helping hand.

Some of your concerns which arise from your flood action group meetings may require you to arrange meetings with local authorities and Environment agencies for further help and support.

Some flood action groups may even go as far as discussing policy changes and having talks with parliament.

Each community varies, so it is important that your flood action group creates a plan and forms actions that are tailored to suit the needs of your community.

