

## April Showers

### Purpose:

To explore the impact severe weather and flooding can have on young people and the communities they are part of.

**Time:** 60 mins

### Resources:

Laptop, projector, speakers (if you don't have access to these the facilitator can play the part of the news reader), 3 x video clips, flip chart, pens.

A scenario is suggested for the exercise but if you are able to you could adapt this to your local context.

### Introduction

- The purpose of this exercise is to encourage young people to think about the issues that might affect them in a common emergency scenario, and to consider their priorities in terms of helping them be resilient.
- The exercise will take 45 minutes to 1 hour.
- It should be led by a central facilitator (with table facilitators to lead discussion at tables if required), and has 3 videos that can be read by the facilitator or shown on a video as a simulated TV news broadcast
- Participants should be divided into groups of 6–8 young people.

#### 1. Facilitator introduces the exercise

“Imagine that you live in Burnbridge, a medium sized town in southern Scotland. The town is located on the River Scour and is 10 miles from the nearest city. It's 6 o'clock in the evening on Sunday 30 April, and you turn on the TV news”.

#### 2. Start video 1

**Newsreader:** “In the news this evening: The Met office has issued an amber warning for high winds and heavy rain. A significant storm system which has been named Storm Cassandra, is moving towards Scotland across the North Atlantic. It is expected to bring severe weather to the south of Scotland on Monday night.

SEPA have said that because many of Scotland's rivers are already high due to the wet weather earlier this month, there is a high risk of flooding in many areas.

Emergency response organisations are in the process of deploying resources to the places most likely to be affected, but have warned that Scotland's weather is inherently unpredictable.

Power and telecoms companies have advised the public that any power cuts or loss of communications will be dealt with as soon as possible, but that in the event of widespread damage it may be some time before all customers are reconnected.

A Scottish government spokesman advised the public to monitor the weather forecasts for their area, to check the SEPA website for information on flood risk, and to go to the Ready Scotland website for advice about how to be prepared for severe weather”.

## April Showers

### 5. Facilitator initiates discussion at tables

Each table has 20 minutes to discuss the following questions:

- What challenges might young people be facing?  
(Prompts: Housing, schoolwork, exam worries, concern about friends, using services)
- Which local services might support young people immediately after an emergency?  
For example – schools, youth work, health, police etc.
- Pick one of these services and discuss how that service could best support young people immediately after an emergency?
- Identify the 3 top things that would make the most difference to young people
- Facilitator asks each group to feed back 1 thing each to the wider group.

### 6. Start video 3

**Newsreader:** “In tonight’s news we revisit the town of Burnbridge, which was seriously affected by Storm Cassandra, 2 weeks ago.

The 2 boys who were treated for injuries and exposure to cold after being washed away by flooded waters have made a good recovery, but 2 weeks on, a number of the town’s residents are suffering from ill health linked to the flooding experienced. There has been a serious outbreak of salmonella affecting one of the town’s primary schools which public health officials believe was caused by children playing in flood water which was contaminated with farm waste.

The local secondary school has partially reopened. While repairs are carried out to classrooms and the school hall, many classes are taking place in temporary structures. Exams which were scheduled to take place at the school are now being organised at schools in neighbouring towns.

40 families from Riverside Drive on the Meadowvale estate are still unable to return to their flooded homes while repairs are carried out. These families are now in temporary accommodation in different areas of the town and in neighbouring communities, in some cases up to 20 miles away. Meadowvale, is a relatively deprived area and many of the affected families are facing significant financial losses because their homes and contents were not insured.

While the town is slowly getting back to normal, life for many of its residents continues to be very difficult”.

### 7. Facilitator initiates discussion at tables

- Each table has 5 minutes to discuss how the service they chose earlier can help young people recover from the effects of the emergency?
- Identify the 3 top things that would make the biggest difference
- Facilitator asks each group to feed back 1 thing each to the wider group.