April Showers

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 injects 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.
Facilitator introduces the exercise

1. “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. **Inject 1: Start video**
   Resilience Workshop 2 Media Broadcast 1
   – April Showers – News - 1 (2 minutes)
   **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 spokesperson 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”.

3. **Facilitator initiates discussion at tables**
   • Each table has 5 minutes to discuss what they could do to prepare
   (Prompts: How do you think you would be feeling? Who might you be worried for? Do the young people have a place they tend to gather? What might happen to this?)

   • Identify the 3 top things that you would do

   • Facilitator asks each group to feed back one thing each to the wider group. (repeat if required).
Newsreader: “Good morning: It is now 7:00am on Tuesday morning, and many areas of Scotland are waking up to serious disruption after a very wet and windy night caused by Storm Cassandra.

The town of Burnbridge has been particularly hard hit by flooding and storm damage.

The town has no electricity – and supplies are not expected to be restored for between 24 and 36 hours. In the meantime all local homes and businesses have no heating or lighting, and almost all of the town’s shops and businesses are closed. Because of the power cut mobile phone and data services are unavailable.

40 homes in the town’s Meadowvale housing estate were flooded when the River Scour burst its banks. A spokesperson for the local authority has said that they are doing everything possible for the distraught families affected. Many were taken by surprise by the flooding, and have lost most of their possessions. A rest centre for evacuated residents has been established in a local community centre. Affected families may not be able to return to their homes for up to a year and will have to find alternative accommodation until then.

The roof of the local secondary school has been severely damaged by the high winds overnight. The school’s Facebook page states that it is closed today, and will remain so until a full assessment of damage has been carried out and the safety of the building is established. Students, who are due to start taking exams at the school, in a few days’ time, are advised that alternative arrangements will be found as soon as possible.

In breaking news, we have received reports that two 13 year old boys are seriously ill in hospital after trying to cycle across a flooded street. It appears that one of the boys initially fell off their bike and was washed away, and the second boy got into difficulties while trying to rescue his friend.

The emergency services and the local council working hard at the scene, but the days and weeks to come are clearly going to be very challenging for the residents of Burnbridge”.
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, healthcare, 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 one thing each to the wider group. (repeat if required).

6. Inject 3: Start video

Resilience Workshop 2 Media Broadcast 3
April Showers - News – 3 (3 minutes)

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

The two 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.

Forty 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”.

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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 three top things that would make the biggest difference
- Facilitator asks each group to feed back one thing each to the wider group. (repeat if required).