



# FLOOD ACTION GROUPS



Flood action groups consist of local residents working on behalf of the wider community alongside agencies and authorities, who meet on a regular basis with the aim of reducing the community's flood risk and improving its resilience to flooding. A flood action group may be based around general emergency planning, and can tackle the issue of flooding in the area by creating a community flood plan and developing a community flood resilience scheme if suitable. To be effective, the group can try to increase the awareness of flood risk within the community to get residents actively involved in reducing their flood risk. The first step for residents should always be to ensure that their own properties and businesses are protected and prepared for possible future flood events.

## What does a Flood Action Group Do?

- A flood action group can identify and discuss issues which contribute towards the areas flood risk such as problems with nearby drains and watercourse responsibility issues, as well as other tasks such as instating flood wardens, and identifying who may be vulnerable in your community and might need a helping hand.
- Some matters that arise from your flood action group meetings may require you to arrange further meetings with Local Authorities and environmental agencies for added help and support on more specialised subjects. Some flood action groups may even go as far as discussing policy changes and having talks with parliament.
- 'Flood wardens' can also be appointed to monitor water levels, take the lead on community flood plans and champion community resilience.

## Community Flood Planning

- Putting a community flood plan together can be done in a few simple steps, and it should be tailored to suit the specific needs of your community. Some steps you can take are:
  - Decide on group members responsible for taking action, and find the best way to communicate messages to residents.
  - Identify key skills and resources available in your community.
  - Identify vulnerable people who need help, and who can help them.
  - Provide contact details for key community members, emergency services, Local Authorities and agencies.
  - Create an action plan for when flooding does occur, including actions such as installing flood resilience equipment.

## 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 it will be run. The document will show funders that the group is well organised if you are going to apply for grant funding.
- Your local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) can assist the flood action group in becoming constituted and provide access to resources and information around running successful community groups.



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

**Newground are working with the Environment Agency to support communities across the North West in developing community groups and flood schemes.**