



# FLOOD ACTION GROUPS

Flood action groups are made up of local residents who work on behalf of the wider community alongside agencies and authorities. These groups meet regularly to reduce flood risk and strengthen community resilience. A flood action group may focus on general emergency planning while specifically addressing flooding through initiatives such as creating a community flood plan and, if appropriate, developing a community flood resilience scheme. To be effective, the group aims to raise awareness of flood risks within the community, encouraging residents to take an active role in reducing their flood vulnerability. The first priority for residents should always be ensuring their own properties and businesses are protected and prepared for potential flood events.

## What does a Flood Action Group Do?

A flood action group can identify and address issues that contribute to flood risk in the area, such as blocked drains, watercourse maintenance, and responsibility concerns. They may also take on tasks like appointing flood wardens and identifying vulnerable community members who may need extra assistance.

Some issues raised in flood action group meetings might require additional discussions with local authorities and environmental agencies for specialised support. In some cases, flood action groups may even advocate for policy changes or engage in discussions with parliament.

Flood wardens play a vital role by monitoring water levels, leading the implementation of community flood plans, and coordinating community resilience efforts when flooding occurs.



## Community Flood Planning

Creating a community flood plan can be accomplished through a few simple steps, and it should be customised to address the unique needs of your community, as each one is different. Here are some steps to consider:

- Identify vulnerable individuals who may need assistance and those who can provide help.
- Compile contact information for key community members, emergency services, local authorities, and relevant agencies.
- Develop an action plan for responding to flooding when it occurs, which should include measures like installing flood resilience equipment.

## Can Flood Action Groups Access Funding?

Once a flood action group becomes a constituted entity, it may gain access to additional funding from local organisations to support community resilience efforts.

A constitution serves as the 'governing document' for the group, clearly outlining its operational structure and management. This document demonstrates to potential funders that the group is well-organised, which is essential when applying for grant funding.

Your local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) can assist the flood action group in becoming constituted and provide valuable resources and information on effectively running successful community initiatives.



**The Flood Hub People are working with the Environment Agency to support communities with flood resilience across the North West, including developing community groups, flood plans and flood schemes.**