# TABLETOP EXERCISE – Blackout

## Summary

This tabletop exercise aims to test the response of staff when faced with the decision to close the education setting during periods of Blackout.

This exercise is designed to last approximately one hour.

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| **Approximate timings** | **Activity** |
| 5 minutes | Introduction to exercise |
| 5 minutes | Inject 1 |
| 15 minutes | Group discussion |
| 5 minutes | Inject 2 |
| 15 minutes | Group discussion |
| 15 minutes | Debrief |

## Inject 1

Scenario time

Monday, 10am.

News bulletin

“Storm Jennifer continues to cause havoc across Yorkshire and the UK with 1,000 homes in Rotherham currently without electricity. People are being advised to stay at home wherever possible and to avoid unnecessary journeys. Strong winds are still forecast for the rest of the week with some areas already reporting empty shelves in supermarkets due to delivery problems.”

Information

Rotherham has been experiencing prolonged spells of poor weather for several weeks and, in the

last few days, very high winds.

Within your local area the power has been lost, this has lasted a couple of hours but concern has

been raised about the situation going into the next few days. The power outage is wide spread and

Northern Power are working on the faults but due to the on-going high winds work is being

disrupted.

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| * What arrangements should staff make today to prepare for a possible closure tomorrow? * When would the decision to close be taken? * If you are closing the education setting, how will parents / carer givers and pupils be informed?   + Who else would need to be notified and are the necessary contact details available? * Are any other actions required? |

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## Inject 2

Scenario time

Tuesday, 7am.

News bulletin

“With the severe weather Yorkshire and the Humber has been experiencing there has been much disruption to many transport services and businesses. In neighbouring Local Authorities, hundreds of schools, education settings and childcare settings have taken the decision to close.”

Information

The Headteacher has arrived at school and despite the high winds there is no structural damage to the school but there is only intermittent power. Local Radio has been advising communities to be prepared, take all necessary precautions and to continue to tune to local radio for further updates. Northern Power are continuing to work on the faults but due to the on-going high winds work is being disrupted. It is becoming clear that the power will be on and off for a considerable amount of time. The forecast for the rest of the week is strong winds and parents are already contacting school to ask if we will be open.

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| * Should the education setting close?   + Who decides to close the education setting?   + How soon can online learning begin? * How will staff, parents / care givers, pupils, the local authority and the media be informed of developments and kept up to date? * What welfare and safeguarding measures would need to be put in place? * What support is needed to potential have a generator brought to site? * Are any other actions required? |