# TABLETOP EXERCISE – Flooding

## Summary

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

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

Tuesday, 7pm.

News bulletin

“Storm Jane continues to cause havoc across the UK with 300,000 homes currently without electricity. People are being advised to stay at home wherever possible and to avoid unnecessary journeys. There are also concerns for two men who are missing after their car was swept into the River Rother. Heavy rain and high winds are still forecast for the rest of the week with some areas already reporting empty shelves in supermarkets due to delivery problems.”

Information

Storm Jane has caused heavy rain with many properties in the local area flooded. Three families have had to leave their homes and there are several without electricity.

Heavy rain is forecast all night, and some parents have contacted the Education Setting to ask if it will be closed.

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| * What arrangements should staff make today in order 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

Wednesday, 7am.

News bulletin

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

Information

A significant amount of rain fell overnight and the headteacher has arrived to find that the hall and two classrooms have floodwater in them. It is unlikely that they will be in use for several weeks. The forecast for the day is light rain and parents are already emailing 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 recover from damage caused by the flooding? * Are any other actions required? |