

Cumbria Flood Factsheet

Cockermouth Flood Information Bulletin

Issue 8 – 26th February 2016

Advice and support drop-in sessions

Hayley Bishop – CCC Community Development Officer will be running drop-in sessions to offer advice and support.

Tuesday 1st March 09:30-12:00 Cockermouth Library (local collection room)

Tuesday 1st March 12:30-14:30 Bridge Café, Wakefield Road

Thursday 3rd March 09:30-12:00 Cockermouth Library (local collection room)

Thursday 3rd March 12:30-14:30 Bridge Café, Wakefield Road

General advice and flood sacks available at Allerdale Borough Council Contact Centre, Fairfield car park (open Monday to Thursday 09:00-17:00 and Friday 09:00-16:30)

Cumbria County Council - 01900 706009 or www.cumbria.gov.uk/Floods2015/

Allerdale Borough Council - 01900 702702 or www.allerdale.gov.uk/floodadvice

Bridge Café on Wakefield Road Car Park

Bridge Café will be open Monday to Friday between 10:00-16:00 and Saturdays 10:00-13:00 and will be providing FREE hot drinks, sandwiches and hot rolls for flooded residents. Grant forms and general information is also available.

Cockermouth Street Friends

Teams of 'Street Friend' volunteers are regularly visiting flooded areas of Cockermouth offering a friendly ear helping to identify individual needs to get the most appropriate assistance. If you would like to request a visit from a 'Street Friend' please contact Hayley Bishop on 07917 534427 or hayley.bishop@cumbria.gov.uk

Local funding available from Cockermouth Rotary

Rotary Club of Cockermouth Charitable Trust Flood Appeal Fund has a limited appeal fund to help the victims of the December floods. These funds are available to anybody in the CA13 Post Code area who has been directly affected by the floods in the area on the 5th December 2015. Grant forms are available at Bridge Café on Wakefield Road, Cockermouth Library and Firns Hardware Store.

For more information visit www.cumbria.gov.uk

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Latest bridge and road closures

- Gote Bridge is open
- Ouse Bridge is open
- Broughton High Bridge is open
- Isel Bridge near Cockermouth is closed due to damage – estimated opening date is 14 March.
- Southwaite Mill Bridge is closed due to road damage – estimated opening date is 20 March
- Millers Footbridge at Cockermouth is open
- South Street Footbridge at Cockermouth is now open
- Brewery Lane Footbridge at Cockermouth is now open

New arrangements for the removal of flood-damaged waste

New arrangements are now in place for the removal of flood-damaged waste from homes and businesses.

Allerdale Borough Council collected hundreds of tonnes of flood damaged goods and material in the weeks immediately after the storms which hit the area in December. The rules on the disposal of building material, such as plaster and plasterboard were relaxed by Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency in the immediate aftermath of the floods, which meant the Council could take this type material as part of its normal collections. This was to help businesses and residents recover and start repair work as quickly as possible. However, the relaxation on the rules ended on 31 January 2016 and so Allerdale Borough Council is no longer able to provide this service.

Individual householders can take any bagged building material to the local municipal waste sites in Maryport, Workington or Wigton. Any material produced by building contractors is deemed to be commercial waste and should be disposed of by them in the correct way, as required under their duty of care as commercial waste producers.

Allerdale Borough Council also offers a bulky waste collection for householders. Residents can have up to six items collected for £19.17. This includes items such as sofas, fridges and mattresses.

Allerdale Borough Council officers are committed to help all those that have suffered as a result of the flooding. For advice on waste collection please contact us on 01900 702 800. For advice on anything else flood-related, such as access to grants and funding for repairs and flood prevention measures, please call the Council's Customer Services team on 01900 702600 or take a look at

www.allerdale.gov.uk/floodadvice

For more information visit www.cumbria.gov.uk

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HWRC Permit Scheme Update

CCC temporarily suspended the HWRC permit scheme for flood affected householders during the floods to enable disposal of flood damaged waste. The permit scheme will be reinstated from Monday 11th January. This will mean that any householders wishing to visit a HMRC with a van, pickup or trailer will need a permit.

Crime prevention advice

Fraudulent activity / door steppers:

- Use people/firms you know, obtain several quotes, and don't let unknown traders persuade you into having works done
- If in doubt tell the caller to leave and do not let someone into your home you do not know – genuine traders will not try to pressurise you
- Look out for neighbours and friends – especially those who are vulnerable and elderly
Call Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506 for advice or to report a suspicious trader, or call 101 to report an incident to the police

Protecting property:

- When it is safe to return to your property, please consider removing items of financial and sentimental value to safe venue, e.g. a relative's address
- If you are looking to ventilate your property, remember to close and secure doors and windows on departure/when going to bed
- Remain vigilant; community spirit is critical at this time, please look out for your neighbours
- Challenge people you do not recognise, genuine people will not be offended by this. If you do not have the confidence to challenge, report it
- Additional high visibility foot patrols are in operation in the worst affected areas
- If it looks suspicious or out of the ordinary, report it to Cumbria Police on 101

Keeping in touch:

Cumbria police and partners urge residents to register on Cumbria Community Messaging. A free information service through which you can receive updates on what is happening in your area. You can register online at: <https://www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk/>

Updates can also be found on the Constabulary website (www.cumbria.police.uk), and the Constabulary's Facebook and Twitter accounts (@cumbriapolice)

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Funding information

Whether you are a resident or a business there are a number of different grants that can help you get back on your feet including the following:

1. £500 for any household in a residential property that has been flooded for us for general recovery
2. Up to £5000 for any residential or business property that has been flooded and wants to carry out resilient repairs to make their property more repairable in the event of flooding or install resistant measures, such as installation of flood barriers.
3. Business Recovery Grants to help businesses get back on their feet
4. Funding for individuals and families from the Cumbria Community Foundation
5. Help for voluntary, sporting and community groups
6. Help with Council Tax and Business Rates
7. Support for Farmers

1. £500 for any residential property that has been flooded

The government is providing local authorities with Community Grants as part of the Communities and Business Recovery Scheme. This will be equivalent to up to £500 per household affected by flooding between the 3-11th December 2015. It will help with recovery costs such as provision of temporary accommodation.

For those properties that already pay their council tax by Direct Debit the good news is that you don't need to do anything! This payment will have been paid directly into your bank account and the payment will show up as a payment from your local district council who are administering the scheme.

If you do not pay your council tax by direct debit, or you haven't received the automatic payment and think you are eligible, then please contact Allerdale Borough Council floodgrants@allerdale.gov.uk or call 01900 702 600.

2. Up to £5000 for any residential or business property that has been flooded and wants to be more flood resilient and install some home flood defences

The government has also made available up to £5000 to homeowners and businesses that were flooded over the incident period 3 – 11 December 2015, the grant is to assist households and business carryout measure in their properties to help them recover quicker from a flood should it occur again, making the property more resilient.

If you would like further information on the grant scheme, then please contact your local district Council. They will be able to provide you with information on the application process and will be able to direct you towards information from professional sources to assist you with your application.

Part of the eligibility criteria allows you to get a qualified surveyor to assess your home and make a professional recommendation as to how the money is best used/invested. £500 of the overall £5000 can be claimed against that cost. Alternatively there is free advice available on the DEFRA website.

Please contact Allerdale Borough Council floodgrants@allerdale.gov.uk or call 01900 702 600

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3. Grants to help businesses get back on their feet

Grants are still available to support businesses severely affected by the recent flooding. Grants are available to non-farming small and medium sized businesses (up to 250 full time equivalent employees).

Grants can be used for a wide range of activities to support survival and recovery such as marketing, interest payments on new and existing loans, specialist advice, training, equipment and other activities supporting implementation of a recovery action plan.

Growth Hub advisers are available free of charge to assist with development of action plans and help put together the application. All applications must be reviewed and signed off by a Growth Hub adviser.

They can also provide other practical advice and support and link businesses into other advice, support and funding available to them.

Application packs, including guidance notes on the scheme, are available to download at www.cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk.

The application process is simple and 75% of the grant will be paid up front within days of approval. To apply contact Cumbria Business Growth Hub, 0844 257 8450 or info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk.

So far over 200 businesses have been helped and over £1.2 million given out in grant payments.

4. Funding for individuals and families from the Cumbria Community Foundation

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund 2015, which is being run by the Cumbria Community Foundation will provide financial assistance to help individuals and families who have been affected. So far 1,463 grants have been awarded totalling payments of over £1.2 million.

There is help available for individuals and families whose homes have significant structural damage from flooding and for employees who have lost work or income because of storm or flood. Please go online to apply at www.cumbriafoundation.org.

5. Help for voluntary, sporting and community groups

Voluntary and community organisations also play a vital role in supporting communities during times of need and grants will be made available to them also.

Support is available to voluntary and community groups who are providing immediate relief to people and longer term community rebuilding projects. Support will also be provided to flood affected community facilities. Please apply on line at www.cumbriafoundation.org or call 01900 825760

If you are a sports group which has been affected by the flooding, there are grants available from Sport England at: <http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/flood-relief-fund/>

6. Help with council tax and business rates

Council Tax - If you had to move out of your home because of flooding you will receive a 100% discount on both your flooded home and the property you have moved to if you are liable to pay

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council tax on your temporary home. If you are continuing to reside in the property that has been flooded but are unable to use the whole property, for example, using only the upstairs rooms, you are also eligible for a discount

Business Rates – there is 100% rate relief for a three month period to all businesses flooded. The relief applies for the full three months even if the premises reopen within that time. A fresh application can be made if the adverse effects continue and will be considered by the Council. The total maximum period for which relief can be obtained is 12 months.

Please contact Allerdale Borough Council revenues@allerdale.gov.uk or call 01900 702 530 for Council tax and 01900 702 990 for business rates

7. Support for Farmers

Farmers affected by the recent flooding in the North of England can apply for up to £20,000 of government money to help restore damaged agricultural land.

The Farming Recovery Fund provides money to help farmers in Cumbria, Northumberland and North Lancashire. It covers damage from the flooding which took place between December 4 and December 9, 2015.

The minimum grant available is £500 and the maximum £20,000. Applications can be made until Friday 18 March 2016. For more information go online at <http://www.nfuonline.com/about-us/our-offices/north-west/cumbria/latest-news/farming-recovery-fund-opens-for-applications/>

Or call the North West regional office on : 024 7685 8500

Water and waste water bills

If you were affected by flooding and had to move out of your home or business then United Utilities will suspend your water and waste water bills.

If you need help or want advice please call

Domestic 0800 912 7239

Business 0345 072 6072

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BT Benevolent Fund for anyone who has been an employee of British Telecom or (in some cases) its predecessor companies. Can also help dependents, e.g. the widow/er of a former BT employee. They make financial grants to those with limited means. Contact 0208 726 2145 or email benevolent@bt.com

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Rowland Hill Fund - charity supporting Royal Mail and Post Office staff, pensioners and their dependants. Give financial grants towards the cost of temporary accommodation, out of pocket expenses, insurances excesses, essential household items and much more. Contact 0800 6888 777, option 1 then option 4.

EON Energy Fund – flooded residents may be eligible for a brand new replacement washing machine, fridge freezer, cooker and boiler. Do not need to be an EON customer to apply. Contact 03303 80 10 90, option 1 www.energyfund.com

Farming Communities

- The Prince's Countryside Fund will work alongside The Prince's Business Emergency Resilience Group (BERG). Farming Help Hotline 03000 111 999.
- Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) has encouraged victims to contact them for funding: 0300 303 7373 or email grants@rabi.org.uk
<http://www.farmingfutures.org.uk/blog/rabi-will-fast-track-help-flood-victims>
- Addington Fund - Providing homes for farming families <http://www.addingtonfund.org.uk/>
- Farm Crisis Network - help and advice Brian Armstrong 0776 2596226
- Defra - Farms can claim £20,000 each for flood repairs. Farmers who want to apply for the Farming Recovery Fund should call the Rural Services helpline on 03000 200 301.
- Forage Aid – 07967 219 991

Help and Support

Cumbria County Council Welfare Team – for emergency financial assistance towards essential costs call CCC Advice & support team **Tel: 01228 221100**

Housing Benefits - for help and advice call Allerdale Borough Council **Tel: 01900 702560**

Eden Flood Volunteers are not only able to support with volunteers to help clean properties and move people, they can also supply food, toiletries, cleaning products and baby products. They also have a steady stream of new and second hand furniture which they will distribute as required. Should you require their help or support Tel: **01768 593190** or email info@edenfloodvolunteers.org.uk

The Royal British Legion can look to assist anyone who has served in the military for more than 7 days with a whole host of services. Particularly where not insured and with moving back into the properties. For further information contact Kerry Newham (Advice and Information officer) Tel: **07500 553 007** or contact the Freephone helpline **0808 802 8080**

CADAS Flood Recovery Support

CADAS recognises that due to the stress and trauma caused by being flooded some people may start to use alcohol, medication or other substances as a way of coping and managing anxiety.

For more information visit www.cumbria.gov.uk

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We provide 1-1 and group support, giving people the opportunity to talk about their experiences and learn new healthy coping strategies instead of using substances to do this.

For information, help and advice please call **0300 111 4002**

Need help to relax and escape from the tensions of a flooded home or business?

In support of anyone affected by the floods, including supporters and volunteers too, Karen Douglas de Fenzi can offer you a gentle and effortless sequence of simple body movements that help you relieve tension throughout your whole body, relax the mind and restore your feeling of health and wellbeing, in difficult times. Your sense of accomplishment and resilience can be enhanced through practice of somatic movement, in the Thomas Hanna tradition, that Karen softly talks you through.

The movements are accessible to all irrespective of age, mobility and previous level of physical activity. For further information contact Karen Douglas de Fenzi on 07515 884640.

Useful Contact Information

AGE UK: 08443 843843 nci.info@ageukwestcumbria.org.uk

Allerdale Borough Council: **01900 702702**

Business Growth Hub: **08442 578450** or info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau: **Workington 01900 604735**

Consumer Direct (to report bogus tradesmen): **08454 040506**

Cumbria Chamber of Commerce (West Cumbria): **01946 592329**

Cumbria Community Foundation: **01900 825760** or <http://www.cumbriafoundation.org/>

Cumbria County Council Adult Social Care: **01768 812233**

Cumbria County Council Children & Families Info Service: **08457 125 737**

Cumbria County Council General Enquiries: **01228 606060**

Cumbria County Council Welfare Team: **01228 221100**

Cumbria County Council Highways: **0845 6096609**

Cumbria County Council Voluntary Car Scheme: **07788 396194**

Cumbria Law Centre: **01228 515129**

Environment Agency: **03708 506506**

For more information visit www.cumbria.gov.uk

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First Steps: **0300 1239122**

Floodline: **0845 9881188**

Gas Safe Register (Gas Safety Advice and registered local engineers): **0800 4085500**

Home Group **0345 1414663**

Impact Housing **03448 736290**

NFU customers: **0808 278 8916**

National Flood Forum: **01229 403101/403055**

NHS Direct: **111 (Also for prescription help & Advice)**

North West Electricity **0800 195414**

Police: **101 (999 for Emergencies only)**

Red Cross: **03448 711111**

RSPCA: **0300 1234999**

CCC Rural Wheels: **0845 6023786**

Samaritans: **116123**

Transco (Gas Leaks): **0800 111999**

Traveline (trains etc): **0871 2002233**

Victim Support (crime): **0300 3030157**

Workington (Local for Cockermouth) Police: **01900 638830**

WRVS: **01228 524508**

Your Derwent & Solway Housing: **03453 450272**

For more information visit www.cumbria.gov.uk