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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies?

Rosanna Briggs. MSc, Dip EP, FEPS
Deputy County Emergency Planning Manager
Essex County Council
Email : rosanna.briggs@essex.gov.uk



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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies? – Floods of 1953



2



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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies?

- "To engage the public to take responsibility for themselves, their family and the wider community prior to an emergency is difficult.....the lack of interest is characteristic of many people....."
- Larsson and Enders 1997

3



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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies?

- Why did Essex take up the challenge?
- How did we get started?
- What have we done?
- The Way Forward?

4


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Why did Essex take up this challenge?

Nothing was in place within the Emergency Planning Community

Opportunity for European Funding

Enthusiastic about the benefits

5



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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies?



- Through European Funding, developed a DVD aimed at children
- Produced a curriculum package to support the DVD for teachers
- Engaged with a school to pilot the toolkit
- Designed a week of activities for the school (200 children, 5 days, all day)!
- Used partner agencies including the media

6


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Broomgrove Primary School



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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies?

- New European Funding opportunity AWARE project with 7 countries
- Essex Chaired Risk Communications Group and were responsible for developing professional and youth awareness packages
- Developed products and exercises to achieve this in 9 languages

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WHAT IF?!

A SCARF PROJECT

A SCARF PROJECT

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JANUARY

01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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“What if.....” Interactive Game

www.essex.gov.uk

Go to your safety, Are you prepared Youth awareness

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- Developing wider educational packages for all Youth
- Multi agency working including Essex Education Business Partnership
- Developing scenarios to engage 14/15 year olds in emergency planning, which allowed them to see career opportunities
- Exercise Haven Sea Port between 70 -100 students during the day
- Exercise Windmill – 300 students (year 10) – role play exercise
- Exercise Rain Drop – 70 students
- District Council's now engaged and developing learning with schools

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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies?

- Conclusions
- Reaching the children can provide the long term solution to changing behaviour
- Beacon win highlighted the value of the work we have done with schools
- New and interactive methods are vital
- You do need to work at getting to the right people

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- Promoting Community Resilience through Schools
- Project including Beacon Authorities, Cabinet Office, including financial support from DCFS
- Two elements of the Project
- Emergency Planning for Schools – lead Nottinghamshire County Council
- Raising awareness and education of Children – lead Essex county council

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Can we prepare our Children for Emergencies?

- Promoting Community Resilience through Schools – objectives
- Make schools safer place for children and other school users
- To enable schools to plan for emergencies for all types of scenario's Small and large
- To develop community resilience and save lives through awareness raising
- ExampleTilly and the Tsunami

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Can we prepare our Children or Emergencies?

- So what of the future?
- Promoting community resilience through schools project has started lead by Essex and Nottinghamshire
- Lesson Plans and products being developed including interactive board games, storybooks and puzzles
- Special Schools
- Media interest high , particularly one organisation

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- The BBC
- Developed with Cabinet Office and others the "What IF" Campaign which ran during January engaging Local Resilience Groups around the Country
- Developing further programme of engagement in September

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Can we prepare our Children or Emergencies?

- Final thought
- We believe that this is not just a project, but has to be about a way of life. Changing behaviour..... We are investing in our children for the future...but they can help us with the wider community now!

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