

Service	Education – Schools specifically
Completed by & title	Fiona Simmonds. Strategic Commissioning and Compliance Team leader
What effect did the adverse weather have on your service?	<p>Our team worked very closely with the schools. We were providing information, updates on the weather and developing situation and advice on measures to take. This had an impact on other tasks which suffered as a result. Team members were monitoring emails and responding late in to the evening to provide as much support to schools as possible.</p> <p>Several schools closed for a day as a precaution due to poor conditions in the local area (The Downs and Compton Primary). One of our schools closed one building and operated out of the other (Shefford School building was closed and pupils moved to Chaddleworth St. Andrews). Several schools suffered near misses with rising flood waters (ground water) on the school grounds.</p>
What plans did your service have in place beforehand to help manage the impact of the severe weather?	Critical Incident Plan for Schools in place and has information on Severe Weather Planning – preparation for and dealing with. Our Critical incident Team was mobilised and supported schools throughout the incident.
Of the actions that you had planned, what worked well?	The team was mobilised and worked effectively with schools. Schools received timely and current information to enable them to make decisions. Schools were able to implement their own plans and react to the changing situation.
What worked less well or would you change for future events and why?	<p>We had several near misses due to drains not being maintained and becoming silted. This trend may have applied to other sites, but they were fortunate not to have encountered problems. We will review our guidance and include this in the planning stage.</p> <p>These sites did not have supplies of sandbags sufficient to deal with the problems. We will review our guidance and include this in the planning stage – where schools have encountered issues and therefore could again.</p>
What changes, if any, were made to your plan in response to events and what effect did they have?	The situation was serious and was developing on a daily basis. We did what needed to be done, in response to the changing situation. We will review our guidance and make any necessary changes in light of the incident.
Please outline any other comments that you may have for the Commission.	It was very difficult to get information on the situation in particular areas – how badly the roads were affected, if the roads were likely to be closed etc... A number of Council Officers were out and about in the district. It would be really helpful in the future if we could find a way of sharing information across the Council. This would enable us to better support schools, better contingency plan and be more efficient.

	<p>It is likely that the impact on the Compton and Shefford schools would have been more significant if half term had been later in February. We may have had to shut the schools for longer periods, due to the poor road conditions and scale of flooding in and around the school sites. None of the sites was in danger of flooding, however.</p>
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