

## **Overview of KSLES winter and spring flooding**

Following an extremely wet December, in February the country experienced some of the worst storm conditions since 2013/14. Storm Dennis brought strong winds and heavy rain to parts of the country already saturated from the events of Storm Ciara the previous weekend, when hundreds of properties were flooded. We experienced road and rail closures, power cuts and water shortages.

Our staff worked around the clock with partners to ensure that people and the environment were protected. Across the country, we protected 25,000 properties.

Our field teams were out at various locations across Kent, South London and East Sussex to ensure that properties were protected from the on-coming flood water and that waterways were cleared of debris.

Below is a summary of our response.

	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>February 2020</b>
<b>Area Incident room open</b>	15 shifts across 5 days	First opened on Sunday 9 February and closed on Monday 17 February
<b>Number of staff involved</b>	Approximately 200, including 28 Community Information Officers out in communities over 6 days (18-23 Dec)	Over 160
<b>Flood Warnings issued</b>	25 – these were sent to 7,271 properties	24 (17 from Storm Dennis alone)
<b>Flood Alerts issued</b>	45	55
<b>Key assets in use</b>	Leigh Flood Storage Area operation between 20-23 Dec  Aldington and Hothfield reservoirs	3 closures of the Thames Barrier and Associated Gates.  Flood Storage Areas such as Leigh, Aldington, Hothfield,  Stonar Cut and the Coult Stream Dam were also used.
<b>Temporary barriers deployed</b>	Westgate Gardens in Canterbury	Temporary defences at Westgate Gardens protected 40 properties

**Partnership working**

A variety of partnership teleconferences were held across the incidents, including ones to coordinate the new Medway Confluence Operational Framework.

This was the first time the framework was used since its development through the Medway Flood Partnership.

The framework sets out: 3 locations in Yalding, Collier Street and Laddingford where the Environment Agency and any other partners will deliver sandbags before flooding begins; plans for parish councils to close roads to limit the impacts from road wash; and how partners will work together to support the community before, during and after a flood. Daily teleconferences coordinate the activity of all the partners involved in the response in the area, including the parish councils, Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council.