

ClimateJust Identifying and addressing flood vulnerability



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Role and focus of Joseph Rowntree Foundation



OUR WORK THEMES

POVERTY:

To identify the root causes of poverty and injustice

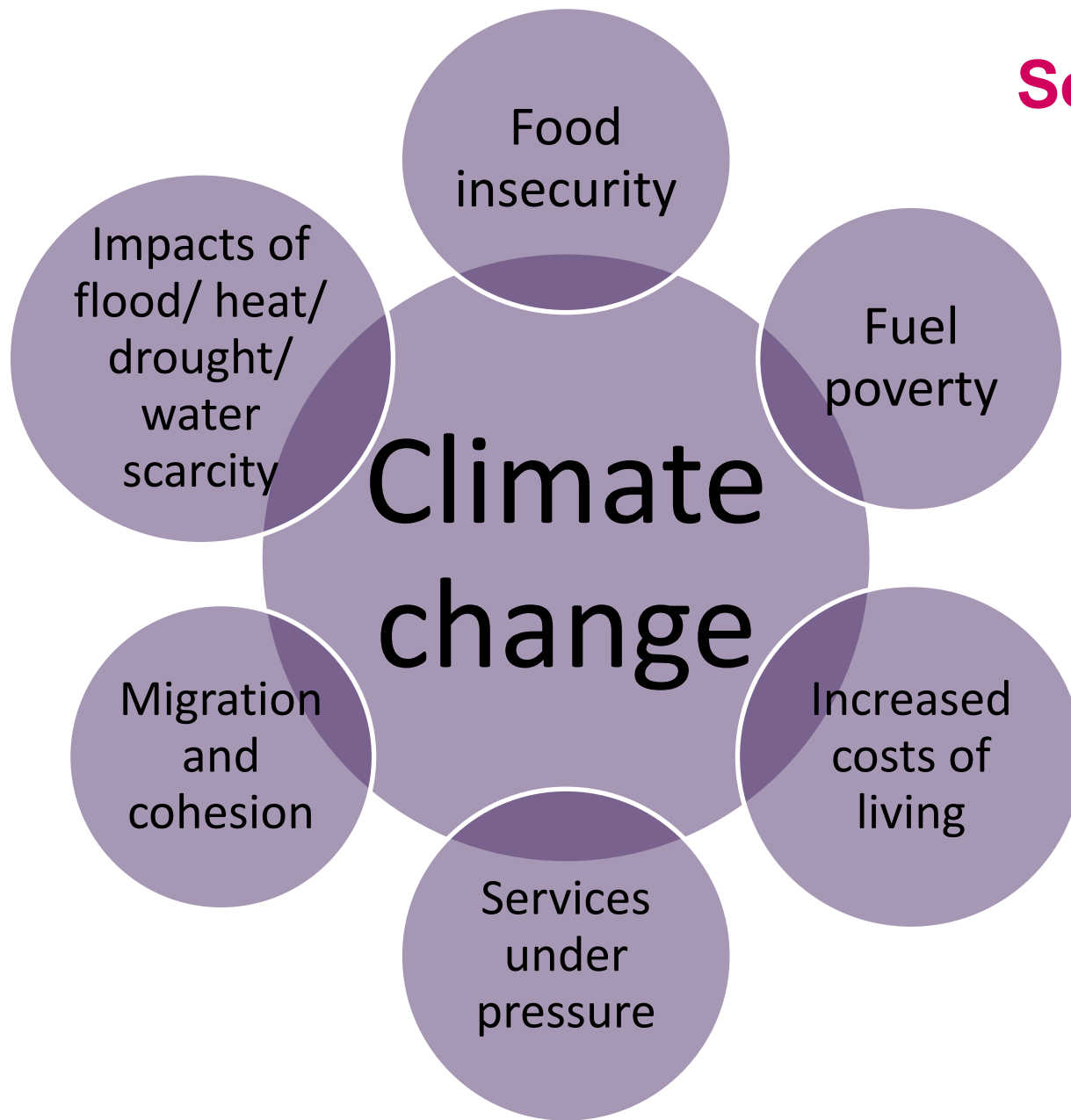
PLACE:

To support resilient communities where people thrive

AGEING SOCIETY:

To respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society

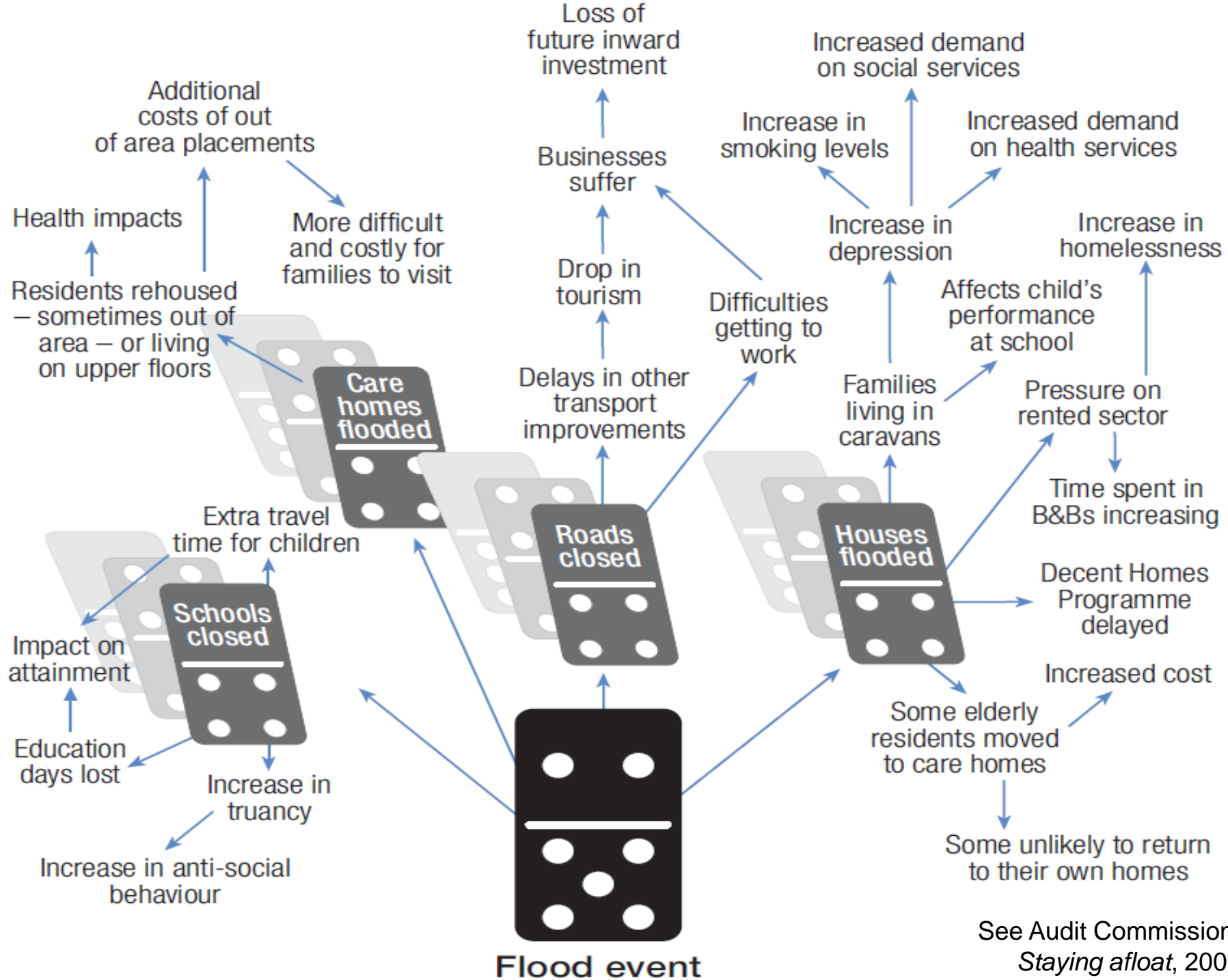
Social impacts of climate change



Climate change will affect health and wellbeing in different ways from direct impacts of flood, heat, drought and water scarcity to issues over costs of living, including due to policy responses from energy and other policies eg affecting fuel poverty and food security

What are the issues?





See Audit Commission,
Staying afloat, 2007

Why does social justice matter?

- **Distributional justice:** climate impacts and policy/practice responses could increase social inequalities
- **Procedural justice:** whose voice is heard in decisions, who decides what action is taken?
- **Inter and intra-generational justice:** implications of responses today for a safe future

JRF focus on vulnerable groups incl people facing poverty and disadvantage

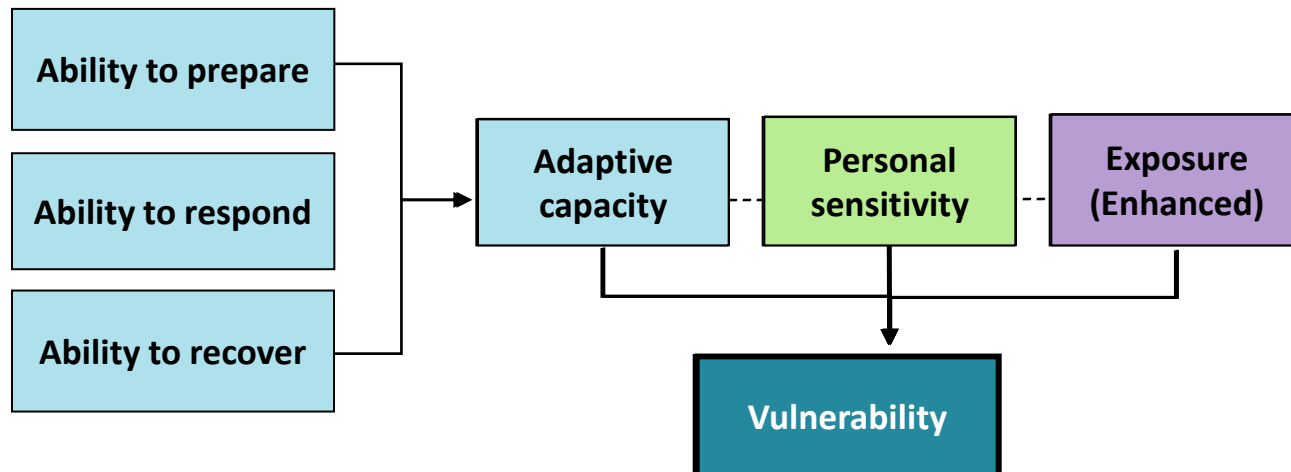


Who is vulnerable and how does it link to wellbeing?

- Vulnerability is a matter of how external stresses impact on well-being
- People are more vulnerable if they are less able to respond to stresses placed on their well-being
- Key questions: how is vulnerability distributed? And how should inequality be measured?
 1. Likelihood and severity of the weather related event – flood, heatwave
 2. Vulnerability: The conversion of the event into welfare impacts and losses
 3. Climate disadvantage is a function of 1 and 2.

Who is vulnerable to flooding?

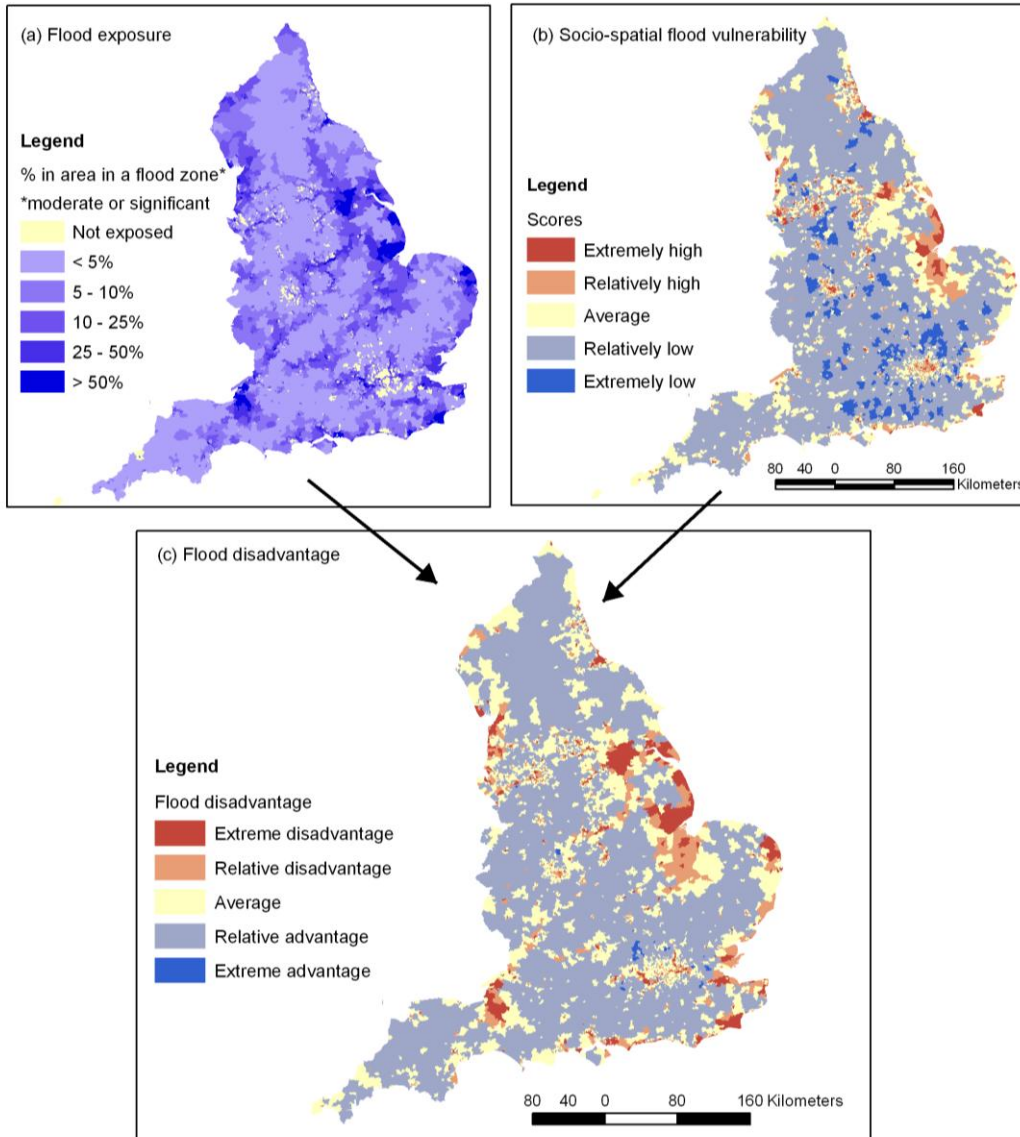
- Dynamic social and spatial issue (changes over people's lives)
- Personal, social and environmental factors
- Climate disadvantage = the likelihood & degree of exposure to a hazard e.g. flooding/ heatwave combined with vulnerability



Important factors affecting vulnerability

Social factors: Adaptive capacity	Personal factors: Sensitivity	Environmental factors: Enhanced exposure
Low income	Age (very young & elderly)	Neighbourhood characteristics (green/blue space)
Tenure: ability to modify living environment	Health status: illness	Housing characteristics: (e.g basement/ high rise/ single storey buildings)
Mobility and access to services	Special care	Buildings
Social isolation	Homeless, tourists, transient groups	High housing density
Information and local knowledge		
Access to insurance		

Flood disadvantage in England



- Some areas have both high socio spatial vulnerability and high potential exposure to flooding
- Urban and coastal areas particularly vulnerable
- Most flood disadvantaged region is Yorkshire & Humber (ie social vulnerability coincides with high likelihood of flooding)

Messages from JRF research...

- Compounded injustice in relation to climate change in UK
 - Low income households who contribute least to problem (lowest emissions) also...
 - Among worst effected by climate change impacts
 - Pay more and benefit less from responses to it (through energy bills & measures)
 - Often have least voice in decisions
- Poverty is an important factor increasing vulnerability to climate impacts including flooding
- To support resilience, need to build adaptive capacity
 - to prepare, respond and recover from climate impacts

Aims of ClimateJust...

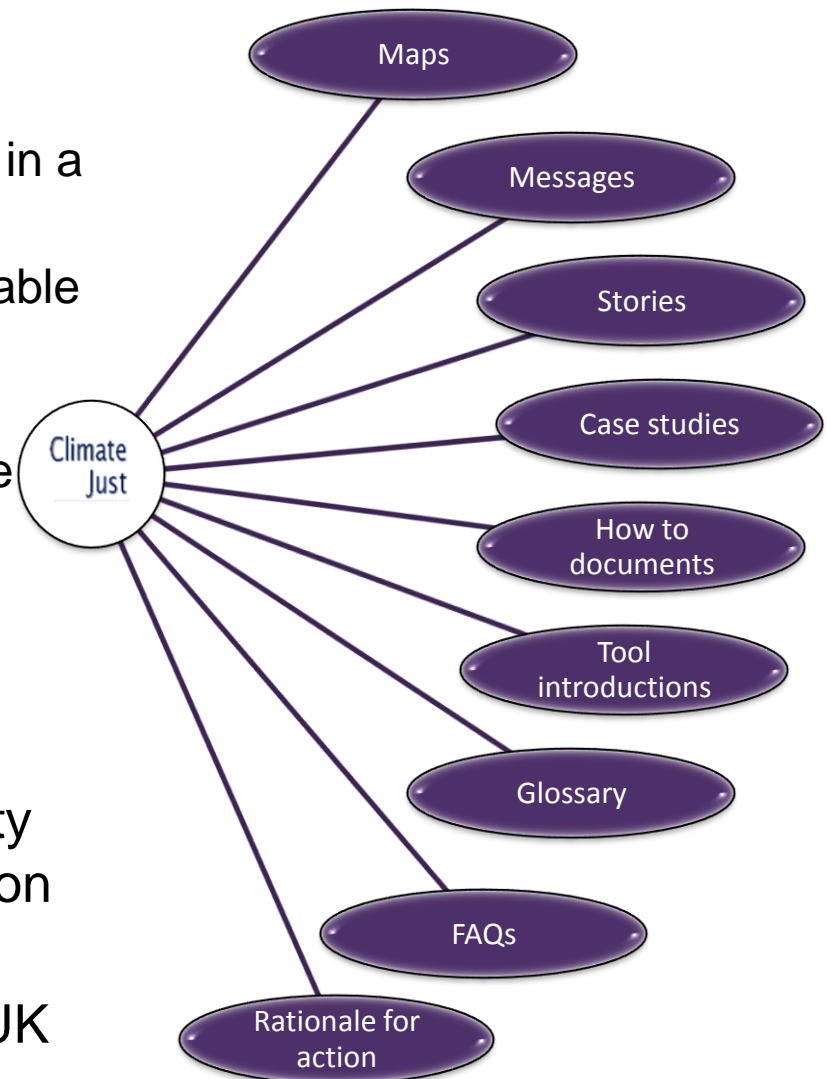
To provide information & guidance that can support practitioners at a local level to develop socially just responses to climate change in UK

What could it help you with?

- Awareness of key issues on developing socially just responses to climate change
- Understand which people and places are vulnerable to climate impacts of flooding and heat
- Understand responsibility for emissions and patterns of fuel poverty
- Assess local patterns of social vulnerability and connect these to actions (- maps to assess local risk)
- Identify who needs to be involved in developing responses
- Develop ideas on possible strategies and actions
- Make a case for equitable action (eg to address strategic priorities)
- Support responses by learning from case studies of local action

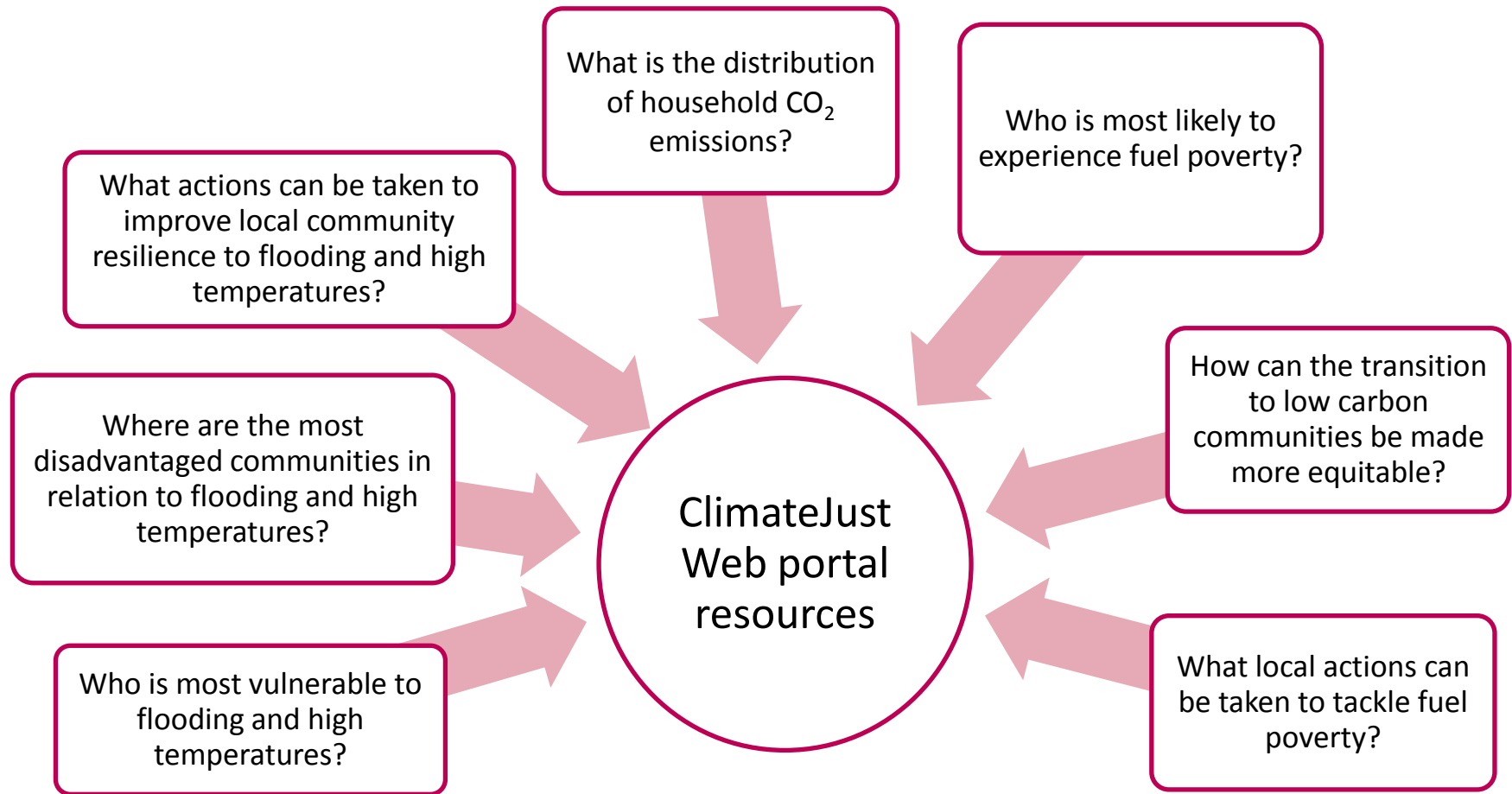
About the ClimateJust resource

- Aims to:
 - Raise awareness of social justice in a changing climate
 - Increase knowledge about vulnerable groups in the context of climate change
 - Help to respond to climate change impacts and challenges
- Searchable resource
- Draws on existing tools and resources
- New information about vulnerability to climate change impacts based on census 2011 data (incl SWF)
- Online portal, hosted by Climate UK



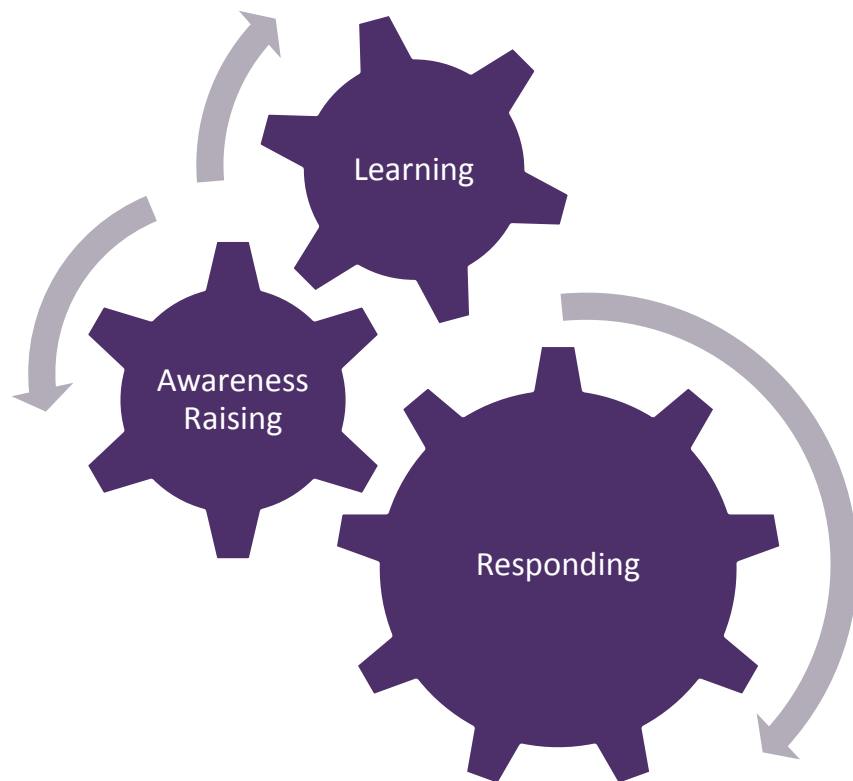
ClimateJust web portal topics covered

Resources to help delivery of equitable responses to climate change at local level



Why use ClimateJust?

Primary audience is **local authorities and partners in social care, health, housing and voluntary and community sector** with a role in supporting vulnerable groups affected by climate change/policy & practice responses



The **National Adaptation Programme** mentions the ClimateJust project as one of the initiatives which can help deliver on its Objective 13:

To minimise the impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups in society by strengthening their resilience to better prepare for, respond to and recover from future climate risk.

ClimateJust next steps

- Content developed by Manchester University
- Website to be hosted by Climate UK
- User testing over the Summer
- Due for completion by end 2014
- Engagement workshops to support use of resource

Please get in touch to find out more:

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