

Appendix 2



Severe Weather / Advice & Guidance

- As SOS's current insurance policy does not cover walking during a MET Office Red or Amber Severe Weather Warnings, all walks during these Warning Periods will be **Cancelled**.
- If a Yellow Weather Warning has been issued, Walk Leaders/coordinators should carry out a Local Dynamic Risk Assessment of the weather and walking conditions before or on the day of the walk to determine if the local conditions suggest that the walk should be able to proceed or be cancelled. This local assessment is especially needed due to the varied weather conditions experienced throughout the City due to Sheffield's topography. The SOS organisation will support Walk Leaders if they decide to cancel or curtail the walk on the day.
- If a Walk Leader following a Local Dynamic Risk Assessment decides to cancel a walk, efforts should be made where possible to inform Walkers of the cancellation.

Examples of ways to disseminate information regarding Cancellation/changes to a scheduled walk.

- Email walkers.
- Use a WhatsApp group for weather messages.
- Phone walkers – sometimes one person does it, or spread the load.
- Walkers are sensible about walking in bad weather and simply sending a representative to the start point to say the walk has been canceled is useful.
- Some groups can direct walkers to the helpline and ask them to phone up if they are not sure if their walk will go ahead or not.
- Agree with the Venue/café to put a card in the window when contacted by a Leader to say the walk is cancelled.

Possible Considerations/ Actions in deciding whether a walk can proceed.

- Will weather conditions improve? delay the start.
- Is there a more suitable route that can be taken?
- Shorten the duration of the walk.
- Consult with other Walk Leaders.
- Advise walkers of the potential Hazards
- Abandon the walk if conditions are worse than expected.

Note:- Health Weather Warnings given by the NHS are not to be confused with Severe Weather Warnings issued by the MET Office.