

# Winter planning assurance 2024-25 season



Better for everyone

# Overview

- Partners have had winter plans in place for years:
  - **Cold weather plans:** Agreed actions for services and environment for responding to adverse weather;
  - **Surge response:** To prevent and manage increases in demand caused by illness of residents, patients and staff.
- Plans have a shared aim to ‘prevent’ excess winter deaths and cold related ill health and to manage demand on health and social care systems and other related services over the winter season.
- Since 2021 – Managed by a multi agency time limited **Winter Planning Group**, providing assurance to
  - Local Accident and Emergency Delivery Board (LADB)
  - Corporate Management Team (CMT)
  - County Durham Care Partnership (CDCP)
  - Health Protection Assurance Development Partnership (HPADP)



# Key actions in health plans

- **NHS** – Bed occupancy / winter pressures managed via LADB; including Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hubs; NHS Priorities; Grant initiatives; Vaccinations. Oversight from the ICB and the regional Urgent and Emergency Care Network.
- **Primary Care** – Pressures offset by pharmacy support; vaccination delivery; Oversight by ICB/LADB aligned to NHS priorities; COPD/asthma review clinics; mitigations to offset GP Collective Action.
- **Social Care** – Winter pressures managed by County Durham Care Partnership. Use of mutual support; grant initiatives; workforce developments; Mutual aid; *(Integrated Strategic Commissioning Team leading on ASC provider market management and support)*; CQC offer of support for winter planning;
- **Public Health** – Surveillance and outbreak management; infection control; vaccinations, adverse weather protecting health plan.

# Key actions in wider partners plans

- **CCU/LRF** – On Call response; Emergency Plans; emergency supplies and equipment; resilient communities / community support; implement learning.
- **Community** – Welcome Spaces; DCA Community Connectors; AAPs; Better Together Forums, Social Prescribers, Community Champions.
- **Welfare and financial support** – support available for residents with key information disseminated to partners and wider council services.
- **Housing** – Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP), warm homes and adaptations, supported living, Care Connect, home from hospital service.
- **Highways** – Gritting of the road network (P1&P2); 2500 salt bins, staff and volunteers used for snow clearing in prolonged snow falls.
- **Communications** – central to raising awareness and promoting and supporting interventions. Winter Wellness resources; Weather Alerts.



# Summary of key interventions

## Universal Interventions

- Met Office Weather Warnings.
- Health and Social Care winter plans.
- DCC / LRF plans.
- Public Health – surveillance and outbreak management plans / vaccinations programmes.
- Community Support – *Welcome Spaces / DCA Community Connectors / VCSE Winter Resilience / Community Champions / Better Together Forums.*
- Welfare and financial support.
- Housing – Warm Homes, quality standards, selective licencing.
- Highways – *Priority 1 network and 2500 salt bins throughout the winter season.*
- Communications – *Health / Schools / Highways / Service disruption.*

## Targeted Interventions

- UKHSA Weather Health Alerts.
- Health and Social Care – NHS priorities, *Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hubs, grant initiatives, mutual aid, pharmacy support, mitigate GP collective action.*
- Emergency alerts (CCU/LRF/OPEL).
- Public Health – Adverse Weather Protecting Health Plan / Infection Prevention Controls.
- Targeted vaccination programmes – Health and Social Care staff / Leaving no one behind / 2-3 year olds / RSV vaccination programme.
- CCU resilience targeted support – *40+ community organisations.*
- Intelligence – *Durham Index of Need (DIoN) / Multiple Social Vulnerabilities (MSV).*
- Fire and Rescue – *Home fire safety welfare checks aligned to targeted interventions.*
- Welfare and financial support – *pension credits / fuel poverty / cost of living.*
- Housing – *SWEP / adaptations / Care Connect / home for hospital service.*
- Highways – *public safety requests / Priority 2 routes / Use of clean and green team town/parish councils to clear grit footpaths in prolonged cold weather.*
- Communications – *Warm, Well and Well Hydrated suite of webpages and assets. [www.durham.gov.uk/warmandwell](http://www.durham.gov.uk/warmandwell) / MECC briefings / winter wellness webinar.*

# Assurance summary

- **Projections** – Wet and cold periods are forecast to be similar to normal. No adverse flu or Covid projections, vaccination plans continue as per routine delivery dates. Learning from last year and LRF, CCU exercises embedded into plans.
- **Plans in place** – Assurance that the workforce and wider partners are delivering on plans and ready to escalate actions.
- **Data** – Continue to seek further datasets to inform targeted work now and future interventions to address vulnerabilities.
- **Communities** – Wealth of very local support (constantly adapting) across the county for vulnerable and ‘at risk’ individuals.
- **Welfare and financial resources** – Processes in place to support local residents – *with a focus this year on pension credits.*
- **Communications and enhanced interventions** – Building on the assets and interventions from previous years to enhance winter wellness awareness, understanding and brief interventions.