

Derby Cold Weather Plan

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The impact of cold weather on health is recognised as a major public health challenge, with associated increasing winter pressures on all services.

There are too many avoidable deaths each year. Cold temperatures predominantly affect older age groups, children and those with chronic illnesses. Approximately 40% of cold-related mortality is due to cardiovascular disease and 33% to respiratory disease. Snow and ice have smaller but direct effects through rising falls and injuries.

The causes are complex, linked with fuel poverty, poor housing, and health inequalities, as well as circulating infectious diseases and the extent of snow and ice.

- 1.2 A presentation on Cold Weather planning was made to the Board at the meeting in November 2013. The Board resolved to support strong local leadership and partnership working and to monitor the effectiveness of systems and plans.
- 1.3 The Cold Weather Plan for England 2014 has recently been published, building on work in previous years, and aims to prevent avoidable harm to health by alerting people to the negative health effects of the cold weather and enabling them to prepare and respond accordingly.

The plan:

- highlights the increasing emphasis of the importance of year round planning and winter preparedness, based on evidence that the total greatest burden on health occurs at relatively moderate cold temperatures
- emphasises the distinction between health effects and interventions for low temperatures and those for snow and ice
- advises organisations to seek assurance that local plans, systems, staff training, cold weather alert cascade systems and resilience planning have been adapted and tested in line with recent organisational changes.

- 1.4 A number of agencies and organisations have worked in partnership across Derby city over the last few years to deliver a range of services, interventions and practical help as part of the Affordable Warmth Strategy and to deliver key Public Health messages around staying warm. Following on from last winter the Stay Warm and Healthy partnership group, with representation from Derby City Council, Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the voluntary sector, have developed a Derby City

Cold Weather Plan for 2014/ 2015 and beyond. In order to ensure effectiveness and to provide robust monitoring it is essential that members of the Board promote the plan within their individual organisations and that an individual champion is nominated to drive forward the recommendations.

- 1.5 The Urgent Care Delivery board has oversight of the impact of seasonal variation on system pressures and resilience of services over the winter period. Investment has been made this year, from system resilience funding, to support key activities delivered by the Stay Warm and Healthy partnership group included in the Cold Weather Plan e.g. the mobilisation of volunteers. The Urgent Care Delivery Board reports to the System Transformation and Resilience Board.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 For the Board to approve the plan and for Board members to promote within their own organisations.
- 2.2 For the Board to endorse the role of a senior officer Cold Weather Plan Champion. It is proposed that this be a senior member of the Public Health Department.
- 2.3 For the Board to agree to receive six monthly updates from the Stay Warm and Healthy Group on progress against the plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure more robust mechanisms are in place to provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board that:
- i. local winter plans are in place to reduce avoidable illness and death due to the cold weather, and
 - ii. local organisations are aware of their responsibilities following changes made to health and social care in April 2013.
- 3.2 To reduce avoidable deaths and associated winter pressures on services provided by Hospitals and emergency services, Primary, Community and Social care.
- 3.3 To highlight the importance of long-term strategic planning and commissioning and to ensure linkages across the local Health and Social Care system.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 Detail is found within the Derby City Cold Weather plan, attached as appendix 2.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 To not develop a Derby City Cold Weather plan would be against national good practice guidance and would not provide the opportunity to coordinate preventative work to improve health outcomes.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Not applicable
Financial officer	Not applicable
Human Resources officer	Liz Moore, Strategic HR Business Partner
Estates/Property officer	Not applicable
Service Director(s)	Derek Ward, Director of Public Health
Other(s)	Ann Webster, Lead on Equality and Diversity.

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Background papers:	Appendix 2 - Derby City Cold Weather Plan
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Local implantation of the cold weather plan could have associated cost savings in terms of reducing the numbers of people with serious illnesses requiring health and social care. Plans should take into account cost/benefits and make the most effective and efficient use of shared resources by working together in partnership across agencies and the community.

Legal

- 2.1 The National Cold Weather Plan 2014 is good practice guidance

Personnel

- 3.1 Staff across all organisations should be made aware of the plan, the health risks from cold weather and their role in identifying and supporting vulnerable, at risk people.

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- 4.1 None

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The most at risk groups are identified and supported as part of local plans. An equality impact assessment will be completed prior to implementation of the plan using the skills of members from our Diversity Forums.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 Implementing the cold weather plan will reduce the numbers of avoidable illness and death due to the cold weather. This includes falls and seasonal flu vaccination programmes.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None

Risk Management

- 9.1 The risks of cold weather on health and severe weather in terms of business continuity are mitigated by the measures put in place through local plans.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The Cold Weather Plan contributes to the priorities of Good health and well-being and Being safe and feeling safe.