

**Isle of Wight Council**

# **COLD WEATHER PLAN**

**2023/24**

**OFFICIAL**



FOREWORD

The Cold Weather Plan for the Isle of Wight outlines the procedures and structures to be used by the Isle of Wight Council (referred to as ‘the council’) in response to cold weather on the Isle of Wight.

It focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the council within a coordinated response of a number of agencies including the Isle of Wight NHS Trust, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System and voluntary sector agencies.

This plan has been developed in recognition of the risks associated with extreme cold temperatures and fulfils the requirement placed on the Isle of Wight Council by national guidance.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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## AMENDMENTS AND PLAN MAINTENANCE

### Amendment Schedule

The plan content will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Isle of Wight Council Public Health Team following the annual update of the [Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#) and [Cold Weather Guidance](#) or more frequently if required, subsequent to one of the following:

- Lessons identified from any incident.
- Lessons identified from any exercise.
- Significant organisational change.
- Changes to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum Community Risk Register.
- Changes in legislation or government guidance.
- Changes that affect the aim or scope of the plan.

### Amendment list

Version Control	Page number	Amendment details	Date amended
V1.0		First Published	
V2.0	All	Updated plan as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Included references to the COVID-19 pandemic (including guidance and plans) and COVID-19 emergency response structures</li> <li>- Updated table 1 to reflect additional considerations in the actions to be taken at different alert levels bearing in mind the COVID-19 response</li> <li>- Updated the local council response (Section 5) in view of updates to the silver response as reflected in the IWC Emergency Response Plan</li> <li>- Revised text to align with the Cold Weather Plan for England 2020</li> <li>- Updated links to plans and documents</li> </ul>	16/10/2020 and 3/11/2020
V3.0	All	Updated plan as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To reflect the change from PHE to UKHSA</li> <li>- Emergency Response and Recovery Plan – update name</li> </ul>	27/10/21
V4.0	All	Updated plan as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revised text to align with the Cold Weather Plan for England 2022</li> <li>- Updated to include learning from response to extreme hot weather events over summer 2022</li> <li>- Added reference to new IWC Severe Weather Arrangements Plan</li> </ul>	24/10/22
V5.0	All	Updated plan as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to reflect the publication of the <a href="#">UKHSA Adverse Weather and Health Plan</a></li> </ul>	10/10/23

### Exercise Schedule

Date	Title of exercise	Type of exercise	Organiser	Attendees	Aim

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 How was this Plan developed?

The Isle of Wight Council's Cold Weather Plan sets out the council's response arrangements to cold weather as part of its service delivery. This plan has been prepared by the Public Health Team in close consultation with the Emergency Management Team (EMT) and has been updated based upon the new [United Kingdom Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) Adverse Weather and Health Plan \(AWHP\)](#) which was published on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The council's Cold Weather Plan should be considered alongside the council's [Emergency Response and Recovery Plan](#), which sets out the response and recovery structures that may be enacted to respond to an incident. Additionally, the council's Severe Weather Arrangements Document sets out response and recovery actions and considerations for the wider consequence management of weather impacts. For advice on access to the latter please contact the council's EMT.

### 1.2 Why is this Plan needed?

Cold weather increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes, lung illnesses, influenza and other diseases. People slip and fall in the snow or ice, sometimes suffering serious injuries. Some groups, such as older people, very young children, and people with medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to the effects of cold weather. Because of this, there is a need to plan for these weather events and identify simple precautions that can be taken and how this will be communicated with the local community.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that 28,300 excess winter deaths occurred in England and Wales in winter 2019 to 2020. Excess deaths are not just deaths of those who would have died anyway in the next few weeks or months due to illness or old age. There is strong evidence that some of these winter deaths are indeed 'extra' and are related to cold temperatures and living in cold homes, as well as infectious diseases such as influenza.

### 1.3 Aim of the Plan

The aim of this plan is to define the Isle of Wight Council's response arrangements to cold weather in the local area.

### 1.4 Objectives of the Plan

The aim will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Define the circumstances that would result in activation of the plan.
- Define activation and notification arrangements.
- Define the Isle of Wight Council roles and responsibilities.
- Define multi-agency roles and responsibilities where appropriate.
- Outline resident information and media arrangements.
- Outline recovery arrangements.
- Describe how this plan links together with other emergency plans, such as task specific plans, statutory plans and service areas business continuity arrangements.

## **1.5 Scope of the Plan**

This plan applies to cold weather which affects or occurs within the administrative boundaries of the Isle of Wight. The plan focuses on the response and interventions to protect individuals from the health effects of cold temperatures and not those for ice and snow and other winter related risks e.g., storms, the response to which is set out in the council's Severe Weather Arrangements Document.

The plan pulls together the key responsibilities of council services. It does not include other agencies' plans or Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (HIOW LRF) co-ordination which is detailed in individual or LRF plans (e.g., HIOW LRF Emergency Response arrangements or the HIOW LRF Managing the Deceased during an Emergency plan). Furthermore, the plan does not replace the council's service level plans and in-house business continuity plans, these remain central to the local area response.

## **1.6 Security Classification**

This document has been given the security classification of '**OFFICIAL**' as the author of this document has assessed this as an official document but does not require the higher level of '**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**'.

## SECTION 2: COLD HEALTH ALERTS

The AWHP aims to protect individuals and communities from the health effects of adverse weather and to build community resilience. It aims to 'prepare for, alert people to, and prevent, the major avoidable effects on health during periods of cold weather in England'. This is done by raising public awareness and triggering actions in the NHS, local authorities and other community organisations to support vulnerable people who have health, housing, or economic circumstances that increase their vulnerability to cold weather.

The council's Cold Weather Plan and the [Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#) (AWHP) are underpinned by a new system of cold health alerts (CHAs). The CHA system operates in England from 1 November to 31 March each year. The alerts are distributed by UKHSA in partnership with the Met Office. From June 2023, the Weather-Health Alerts (Heat-Health and Cold Health) moved to **impact-based alerting**, indicating potential health-sector impacts and likelihood of those impacts occurring based on the forecast temperatures.

The AWHP [user guide for impact based weather alerting system](#) explains the alerting colours and risk matrix.

## SECTION 3: NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN ALERT LEVELS, ESCALATION AND STAND DOWN

### 3.1 Notification of Alerts

Cold health alerts (CHAs) will be operated by UKHSA in partnership with the Met Office. They will contain headline weather conditions expected in the coming days, an outline of what impacts might be expected, brief overview of regional impacts, a mapping element for quick reference and links to additional information, advice and guidance. Alerts can also be monitored via a UKHSA Weather-Health Alert [dashboard](#).

The following will receive the alerts within the Isle of Wight Council:

- Public Health assigned team members.
- Isle of Wight Council Emergency Management Team.
- Individual departments who have previously signed up to the alerts.

### 3.2 Cascading of Alerts

The Emergency Management Duty Officer (EMDO) will cascade all received alerts by email to:

- The council's senior duty officers
- Nominated team members from each local authority department
- Public Health Team – Director of Public Health, Consultant in Public Health with lead for emergency planning, Health Protection Principal, and IOW Service Manager
- Voluntary sector community leads.

Services can receive alerts directly from the Met Office by visiting - [Met Office \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

A distribution list (EM - extreme temperatures) has been set up in collaboration with team members from across the council. The master copy is held by the Emergency Management Team (EMT) and will be updated to reflect service changes within the council. The notification cascade to this distribution list is illustrated in Figure 1.

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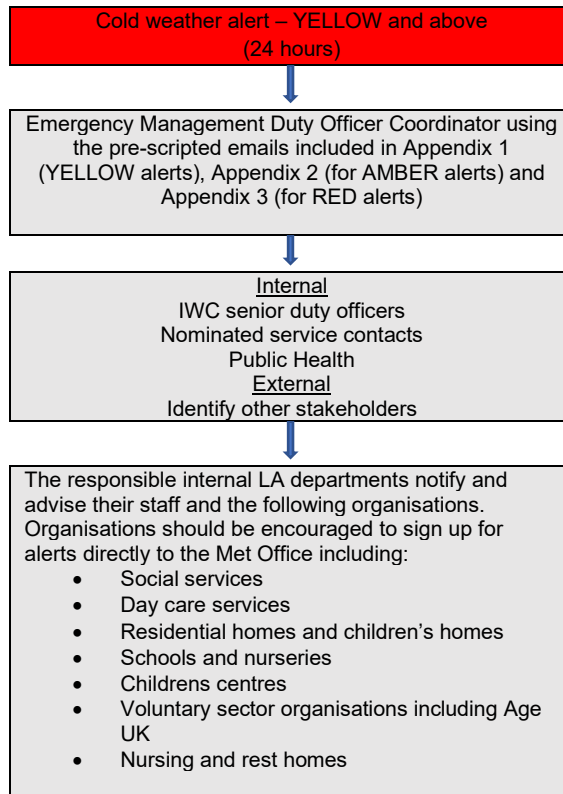


Figure 1: Notification cascade

**3.3 Actions for Council Directorates**

Table 1 provides an overview of the different alert levels, the corresponding IWC response level and a summary of key actions relevant to council directorates and services.

UKHSA AWHP Cold Health Alert level	Corresponding IWC response level	Possible Impacts	Isle of Wight Council Actions
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<p>GREEN Year-round planning – all year</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Year-round planning is required to build resilience and reduce the impact of cold weather and climate change.</p>	<p>Work across directorates within the Isle of Wight Council, and partner agencies at meetings such as the Island Resilience Forum, incorporating agreements into joint strategic plans to prepare for and mitigate the impact of cold weather, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to identify and improve the resilience of those individuals and communities most at risk.</li> <li>• Identify and review advice/information that will be useful to share.</li> <li>• Ensure that a local, joined-up programme is in place covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing, loft and wall insulation and other plans to reduce internal energy use and heat production.</li> <li>○ Engaging the community and voluntary sector to support the development of local emergency plans.</li> <li>○ Make progress on relevant Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) indicators and ensure a robust annual flu vaccine programme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>GREEN Winter preparedness and action – 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Information will be cascading to notify that we are in the winter preparedness and action period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partner agencies, providers and businesses to coordinate cold weather plans ensuring vulnerable groups are appropriately supported and that plans pay due regard to any national COVID-19 guidance in place at the time.</li> <li>• Work with partners and staff on risk reduction awareness (e.g. key public health messages) by using a variety of methods to maximise dissemination. Ensure joined up messaging for COVID-19, Influenza vaccination and cold weather are part of communications and awareness-raising efforts.</li> <li>• Ensure the Isle of Wight NHS Trust and adult social care settings are aware of the IWC cold weather plan, literature and guidance available to them and are engaged in cold weather preparations. This includes making adequate business continuity arrangements due to staff absence and mitigating risks to health of vulnerable populations and frontline staff from co-circulating COVID-19 and Influenza, as well as other winter illnesses.</li> <li>• Continue to engage the community and voluntary sector to support communities to help those most at risk.</li> <li>• Ensure other institutional establishments such as Her Majesty’s Prison Isle of Wight and local schools are aware of cold weather guidance and make adequate business continuity arrangements and plans for Influenza vaccine provision.</li> </ul>

<p>YELLOW Response</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>These alerts cover a range of situations. Yellow alerts may be issued during periods of cold weather which would be unlikely to impact most people but could impact those who are particularly vulnerable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Management to communicate YELLOW email alert (Appendix 1) to all nominated service contacts and make sure that they are aware of cold weather plans.</li> <li>• Communicate public media messages – especially to seldom heard vulnerable groups, bearing in mind the need to ensure joined up messaging around cold weather.</li> <li>• Implement business continuity plans, where required</li> <li>• Increase advice to health and social care workers working in the community, care homes and local hospital, with joined up information about cold weather, Influenza, and COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<p>AMBER Enhanced Response</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An amber alert indicates that weather impacts are likely to be felt across the whole health service, with potential for the whole population to be at risk. Non-health sectors may also start to observe impacts and a more significant coordinated response may be required.</p>	<p><b>Actions as per yellow alert but consider need to enhance public messaging on risks.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Management to communicate AMBER e-mail alert (Appendix 2) to all nominated service contacts and make sure that they are aware of cold weather plans.</li> <li>• Media alerts about keeping warm, bearing in mind the need to ensure joined up messaging around cold weather, Influenza, and COVID-19. Consider need for additional messaging to social care staff/settings, education settings, or event organisers.</li> <li>• Review safety of public events.</li> <li>• Mobilise community and voluntary support and ensure links with established structures for the provision of support to vulnerable people.</li> <li>• Ensure that commissioned services are checking vulnerable clients identified as high risk and taking remedial actions as shown in Appendix 5.</li> <li>• Implement business continuity plans, where required.</li> <li>• Director of Public Health to risk assess impact on the local population and will liaise with EMT to consider standing up the Council’s Silver group and follow processes outlined in Appendix 5.</li> <li>• At this level a multi-agency teleconference could be initiated by any agency. (see Section 3.3.1)</li> </ul>

RED Emergency Response	4	Illness and death may occur among the fit and healthy	<p><b>Red alerts indicate a national emergency with a risk to life for the general population, with wide ranging temperature impacts outside the health sector. Actions as per amber unless advised to the contrary.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up Silver Command and follow processes outlined in Appendix 5.</li> <li>• A senior officer will represent the Council at multi-agency meetings.</li> </ul>
N/A	5	Stand down and recovery activities.	<p>The cold weather has abated, and impact/risks have diminished.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A move to business as usual activities by service areas.</li> <li>• Continue with GREEN actions.</li> </ul>

Table 1: Levels of response and local authority staff actions

Suggested actions for commissioners of health and social care (all settings) have been included in Appendix 5 and can be reviewed with the relevant parties and at Island Resilience Forum meetings. There is also additional guidance relating to [emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings](#) which includes considerations for these settings when responding to CHAs.

### 3.3.1 Isle of Wight Council Response Arrangements

For Amber and Red CHAs, a risk assessment undertaken by the DPH and/or their deputies will be discussed with the EMT and a decision taken to activate the council's internal command and control arrangements as defined in the council's [Emergency Response and Recovery Plan \(ERRP\)](#). This plan focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the council and describes the council's response framework which uses a gold, silver and bronze management structure. For cold weather incidents in the local authority area, it is anticipated that command and control structure will operate from a Silver group level.

The Silver chair will be provided by Public Health, but in the absence of this the DPH can request an alternative chair by contacting the EMT to identify a nominated Silver Commander. It may be the case that a Silver Group is required to deal with wider consequence management from extreme temperatures alongside the health impacts. In this case, a discussion will take place between the EMT and the Public Health Team to determine who is the most appropriate chair for the meetings. The Silver chair is expected to represent the Council at an Island Tactical Coordinating Group if this is also established. The Silver chair will report into the nominated Gold commander or relevant senior manager if the Gold Group is not activated. If the Gold Group is activated, the Silver chair will report into the Gold Group. The Silver chair will take on the role of the Emergency Control Centre (ECC) manager should the Silver Group sit physically and it is determined that an ECC is required. The agenda for the Silver Group meetings can be found in the Council's ERRP. The Silver Group chair will be supported by the EMT through the Emergency Management Duty Officer (EMDO) in the initial stages of the response. Further details on the role of the chair and silver group members can be found in the Council's ERRP.

The structure of the Silver Group will meet the needs of the response in terms of the cells that need to be established and for which a description can be found in the ERRP. When the Silver Group is established a walk-through of arrangements will be undertaken to understand what is needed.

### 3.3.2 Multi-Agency Response Arrangements

Should these be established, multi-agency structures will be coordinated through the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (HIOW LRF) and the Island Resilience Forum (IRF) as per the ERRP. For the purposes of a cold weather incident, it is unlikely that it will affect the Isle of Wight in isolation to the rest of Hampshire. On this basis, the only response structures likely to be utilised are the HIOW LRF Partners Activation Teleconference (PAT), although if deemed necessary Island based responders can also convene an Island Partners Activation Teleconference (IPAT)) during the initial stages of the response and the Island Tactical Co-ordinating Group (ITCG) which will feed Island based information into the HIOW LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) if this is activated.

### 3.4 Stand Down

The EMDO will inform staff via the cascade when the Cold Health alert has come down.

If activated, the decision to stand down the Silver Group response will be taken by the Silver Group Chair in consultation with the Silver Group Members. At this point consideration will be given to whether any formal recovery arrangements need to continue or whether any recovery activities can be dealt with under business as usual arrangements. Any requirement for formal recovery arrangements will be undertaken in line with Section 10 of the Council's [Emergency Response and Recovery Plan](#).

### 3.5 Debrief and Lesson Identification

Following a Cold Health Amber or Red Alert which has impacted significantly on services and departments within the council, an internal council debrief should be considered based upon the level of impact experienced to ensure actions were taken by each Department to identify any areas where improvements could be made, or good practice shared with internal or external colleagues. This will be facilitated by the Public Health / Emergency Management Team (EMT). This should be completed within 6 weeks following the incident in line with the Council's [Emergency Response and Recovery Plan](#).

Multi-agency debriefs will be carried out in accordance with the HIOW LRF Debrief Guide, and a nominated Council Officer(s) would be required to attend the debrief, to share good practice, to learn from others and to identify area for improvement to the multi-agency response.

### 3.6 Record keeping

It is important for all staff to keep accurate and comprehensive records of response efforts during any incident.

The Council's [Emergency Response and Recovery Plan](#) and the Council's Corporate document retention policy should be referenced for more information on how to ensure record keeping is done well and that the information kept is useful for the Council's debrief activities.

## SECTION 4: LINKS TO ADVICE

### 4.1 Adverse Weather and Health Plan

It is vitally important that the [Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#) and [Cold Weather guidance and advice](#) is referred to for planning and guidance on actions.

In particular, the [AWHP Supporting Evidence](#) identifies key groups who are especially vulnerable to the effects of cold weather. These include:

- older people aged over 65 years old
- people with pre-existing chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or diabetes
- people with mental ill-health that reduces individual's ability to self-care (including dementia)
- pregnant women (in view of potential impact of heat and cold on risk of preterm birth)
- children under the age of 5
- people with learning difficulties
- people assessed as being at risk of, or having had, recurrent falls
- people who live alone and may be unable to care for themselves
- people who are housebound or otherwise low mobility
- people living in deprived circumstances
- people living in houses with mould
- people who are fuel poor
- people experiencing homelessness or people sleeping rough
- other marginalised or socially isolated individuals or groups

### 4.2 Guidance for local authority services and organisations supporting vulnerable people

Detailed sector-specific action information and advice can be found by clicking on the following links:

[Cold-Health Alert action card for commissioners](#)

[Cold-Health Alert action card for health and social care providers](#)

[Cold-Health Alert action card for the voluntary and community sector](#)

[Supporting vulnerable people before and during cold weather: for adult social care managers](#)

[Supporting vulnerable people before and during cold weather: healthcare professionals](#)

[Supporting vulnerable people before and during cold weather: people homeless and sleeping rough](#)

[Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during cold weather](#)

### 4.3 Information for the Public

[Keep Warm Keep Well](#) - This provides advice on staying warm over the winter and checking on neighbours and relatives who may be vulnerable during cold weather, in order to reduce illness and deaths. Materials will continue to be available online to help local organisations communicate with the public.

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The Age UK leaflet [Top Tips for Keeping Warm and Well](#) identifies easy things people can do to help themselves stay healthy over the winter.

Local information and advice regarding severe weather issues, such as power cuts and water issues, can be found [here](#) on the IWC website.

'[Get Winter Strong](#)' is the UKHSA and NHS England Winter Vaccinations campaign for winter 23/24. This campaign aims to help those with long-term health conditions (particularly respiratory conditions), 65 or over, pregnant women and parents of under-5s stay well and keep their loved ones well this winter.

The campaign focuses on Seasonal Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations as the best way to protect ourselves, our families, and our friends this winter: Please find information about COVID-19 vaccinations [here](#) and Seasonal Flu vaccine [here](#).

SECTION 5: APPENDICES

**Appendix 1 – Email for YELLOW warnings**

**Email Subject: Severe Winter Weather - YELLOW - Alert and Readiness – ACTION REQUIRED**

Colleagues,

Please find attached the latest details from the UK Health Security Agency and the Met Office advising of a YELLOW Cold Health Alert.

*YELLOW Cold-Health Alert: (cold weather response) has been issued for the following regions xxxx and is in effect between XXXX and XXXX.*

*General overview: Minor impacts are probable across the Health and Social Care Sector, including increased use of healthcare services by the vulnerable population, increase in mortality among vulnerable individuals and increased potential for indoor environments to become very cold.*

Please can you ensure that your relevant staff are made aware of this message and their responsibilities for a YELLOW alert, as set out in the council's Cold Weather Plan, which can be found in the 'Response plans' section [here](#).

Additional Actions:

- **Health and Social Care commissioners**, please can you ensure that this is distributed to providers and that you provide them with a designated point of contact should they require any advice or support

- **IWC Licensing**, please can you pass on details of the cold weather warning to the event organisers of any events taking place within the warning period.

- **IWC Comms**, please can you liaise with NHS Communications and **Public Health** to put a joint release out through the usual channels (agreed template press release in Appendix 4 of the council's Cold Weather Plan, for amendment with any particular real time messaging if necessary).

- **Premises Development**, please can you distribute this message to schools for them to consider any actions that they may wish to take in light of the forecast unless alert falls within school holidays.

- **Emergency Management** will be liaising with key council service areas and multi-agency partners to ensure a coordinated approach should the situation escalate

We will continue to monitor the situation and issue updates as necessary.

Kind regards  
Emergency Management Duty Officer

## Appendix 2 – Email for AMBER warnings

### Email Subject: Severe Winter Weather - AMBER –Severe Weather Action– ACTION REQUIRED

Colleagues,

Please find attached the latest details from the UK Health Security Agency and the Met Office advising of an AMBER Cold Health Alert.

*AMBER Cold-Health Alert: (enhanced cold weather response) has been issued for the following regions xxxx and is in effect between XXXX and XXXX.*

*General overview: Significant impacts are probable across the health and social care sector due to the low temperatures, including: observed increase in mortality across the population likely, particularly in the 65+ age group or those with health conditions, but impacts may also be seen in younger age groups.*

Please can you ensure that your relevant staff are made aware of this message and their responsibilities for an AMBER alert, as set out in the council's Cold Weather Plan, which can be found in the 'Response plans' section [here](#).

#### Additional Actions:

- **Health and Social Care commissioners**, please can you ensure that this is distributed to providers and that you provide them with a designated point of contact should they require any advice or support

- **IWC Comms**, please can you liaise with NHS Communications and **Public Health** to put a joint release out through the usual channels (agreed template press release in Appendix 4 of the council's Cold Weather Plan, for amendment with any particular, real time messaging if necessary).

- **Public health** to consider providing additional advice to health and social care workers working in the community, care homes and hospitals as required. Consider need for further communications to other areas, e.g. childcare and education settings.

- **Premises Development**, please can you distribute this message to schools for them to consider any actions that they may wish to take in light of the forecast unless alert falls within school holidays. Can you liaise with the schools and **IWC Comms** to ensure that details of any schools which decide to close during this period can be communicated to the public.

- **Emergency Management** will continue to liaise with key council service areas and multi-agency partners to ensure a coordinated approach should the situation escalate.

We will continue to monitor the situation and issue updates as necessary.

Kind regards  
Emergency Management Duty Officer



### Appendix 3 – E-mail for RED warnings

#### Email Subject: Severe Winter Weather - RED –Severe Weather Action– ACTION REQUIRED

Colleagues,

Please find attached the latest details from the UK Health Security Agency and the Met Office advising of a RED Cold Health Alert.

*RED Cold-Health Alert: (emergency cold weather response) has been issued for the following regions xxxx and is in effect between XXXX and XXXX.*

*General overview: Significant risk to life: impacts are expected across the health and social care sector due to the low temperatures, including: observed increase in mortality across the population, particularly in the 65+ age group or those with health conditions, but impacts may also be seen in younger age groups.*

Please can you ensure that your relevant staff are made aware of this message and their responsibilities for a RED alert as set out in the council's Cold Weather Plan, which can be found in the 'Response plans' section [here](#).

#### Additional Actions:

- **Health and Social Care commissioners**, please can you ensure that this is distributed to providers and that you provide them with a designated point of contact should they require any advice or support.

- **IWC Comms**, please can you liaise with NHS Communications and **Public Health** to put a joint release out through the usual channels (agreed template press release in Appendix 4, of the council's Cold Weather Plan, for amendment with any particular, real time messaging if necessary).

- **Premises Development**, please can you distribute this message to schools for them to consider any actions that they may wish to take in light of the forecast unless alert falls within school holidays. Can you liaise with the schools and **IWC Comms** to ensure that details of any schools which remain closed during this period can be communicated to the public.

- **Public health** to provide additional advice to health and social care workers working in the community, care homes and hospitals as required. Consider need for further communications to other areas, e.g. childcare and education settings.

- **Emergency Management** will continue to liaise with key council service areas and multi-agency partners to ensure a coordinated approach in responding to any impacts resulting from the *cold weather/icy/snow (delete as appropriate)* conditions.

We will continue to monitor the situation and issue updates as necessary.

Kind regards  
Emergency Management Duty Officer

## Appendix 4 – Suggested Text for IWC Messaging for YELLOW, AMBER or RED Cold Health Alerts

### 4.1 Suggested IWC Social Media Public Health Messaging for a YELLOW or AMBER Cold Health Alert

A yellow alert means that cold weather will primarily impact those over the age of 65 or those with pre-existing health conditions such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

OR

An amber alert indicates that cold weather has the potential to impact the whole population, both young and old. Those over the age of 65 or with pre-existing health conditions such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases are particularly at risk.

Here's a reminder of ways to stay safe in the cold:

- Make sure that you stay warm, eat well and stay hydrated.
- If going outside, make sure you dress appropriately. Wear shoes with good grip when you go outside to avoid slips and falls on slippery or icy surfaces.
- If indoors, keep bedroom windows closed. Heat rooms, you spend most time in, to 18°C (65°F) if you can and wear multiple layers of thinner clothing.
- When you're indoors, try not to sit still for more than an hour or so. If you find it difficult to move about, stretching your arms and legs can also help keep you warm.
- If there is anyone you know who might be at special risk, for example, an older person living on their own, make sure they know what to do to stay warm and are well stocked with food and medications.
- If you are worried about your health or that of somebody you know, ring NHS 111.
- More information can be found at [nhs.uk/staywell](https://www.nhs.uk/staywell)

### 4.2 Suggested IWC Press Release for a RED Cold Health Alert

Island residents are being reminded of key advice for cold weather following a UK Health Security Agency and Met Office warning for severe cold/icy conditions this week.

#### Edit with the RED Cold Health Alert

Example

RED Cold-Health Alert:) has been issued for the following regions xxxx and is in effect between XXXX and XXXX.

This weather could have significant risk to life across the population, particularly in the 65+ age group or those with health conditions, but impacts may also be seen in younger age groups. Impacts are expected across the health services.

Although thankfully not often needed, the Isle of Wight Council has robust and tested cold weather emergency arrangements in place. Island Roads monitor the weather accordingly to ensure that key main roads are gritted and kept clear. In addition, 4x4 arrangements are in place to ensure that key council staff such as those in social care are able to continue to deliver services within the community.

However the best advice is to make sure in adverse weather condition, you only go out if really necessary and keep warm in your homes and check on vulnerable neighbours, such as the ill and the elderly.

You can check the latest forecast details at the following link:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=map>

### **General advice**

- Make sure that you stay warm, eat well and stay hydrated.
- If going outside, make sure you dress appropriately. Wear shoes with good grip when you go outside to avoid slips and falls on slippery or icy surfaces.
- If indoors, keep bedroom windows closed. Heat rooms, you spend most time in, to 18°C (65°F) if you can and wear multiple layers of thinner clothing.
- When you're indoors, try not to sit still for more than an hour or so. If you find it difficult to move about, stretching your arms and legs can also help keep you warm.
- If there is anyone you know who might be at special risk, for example, an older person living on their own, make sure they know what to do to stay warm and are well stocked with food and medications.
- If you are worried about your health or that of somebody you know, ring NHS 111.
- More information can be found at [nhs.uk/staywell](https://www.nhs.uk/staywell) .

### **Homelessness provision**

If you are aware or in contact with someone without somewhere to stay, please encourage them to contact either The IOW Council Housing Team on (day time: 01983 823040 or out of hours: 01983 821105) or The Salvation Army (01982 812743).

Individuals 16 years + with no place to stay can also contact The IOW Housing Team.

If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough, you can also send an alert to Streetlink by visiting [streetlink.org.uk](https://streetlink.org.uk) , via the mobile app, available for Apple and Android devices, or by calling 0300 500 0914 – this will connect them to local services and support.

If you suspect someone is in immediate risk, harm or danger from sleeping rough, please telephone the Police on 999.

Further advice and information is [here](#)

### **Frozen or burst pipes**

You can prepare your home for icy conditions by following the advice from Southern Water at: [Prepare for winter \(southernwater.co.uk\)](https://southernwater.co.uk/prepare-for-winter)

Southern Water also maintains a register of priority customers who may be vulnerable due to illness or age. You can make sure yourself or a relative or neighbour is added to this by calling 0800 027 0800 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

You can report a leak on Southern Water's 24-hour leak line: 0330 030 0146.

### **Power cuts**

If you have a power cut, call 105 to get up-to-date information.

Further advice is available at <https://sse.co.uk/help/safety-and-emergencies/electrical-safety/power-cuts>

### **Travel advice**

The roads and pavements can be dangerous when icy. Avoid travelling in very bad conditions, if possible, but if you have to travel, check the latest weather and travel advice.

- Check MET Office weather warnings at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>
- Check live road updates by following Island Roads on twitter (@IslandRoads) or listening to local radio.
- You can find out which routes are gritted at <https://islandroads.com/winter-service/>
- Plan your route using the AA route planner at <https://www.theaa.com/route-planner/traffic-news>

## OFFICIAL

- Check live travel updates at <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/travel-updates/>
- Check live Southern Vectis bus travel at <https://www.islandbuses.info/service-updates> or via twitter (@Southern Vectis)

Appendix 5 – Suggested actions for commissioners of health and social care (all settings)

	Descriptor	Actions
GREEN	Year-round planning – <i>all year</i>	<p>Work with partner agencies to ensure that cold weather planning features within wider winter resilience planning.</p> <p>Work with partners to ensure a strategic approach to the reduction of excess winter deaths (EWDs) and fuel poverty is taken across the local health and social care economy.</p> <p>Work with partner agencies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a shared understanding of EWDs and what partners can do to reduce them</li> <li>• identify those most at risk from seasonal variations</li> <li>• improve winter resilience of those at risk</li> <li>• ensure a local, joined-up programme is in place to support improved housing, heating and insulation, including uptake of energy efficient, low carbon solutions</li> <li>• achieve a reduction in carbon emissions and assess the implications of climate change</li> <li>• Consider how your winter plans can help to reduce health inequalities, target high risk groups and address the wider determinants of health.</li> <li>• Ensure that organisations and staff are prompted to signpost vulnerable clients onwards (e.g. for energy efficiency measures, benefits or related advice).</li> <li>• Work with partners and staff on risk reduction awareness (e.g. COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination for staff, information and education.</li> <li>• Engage with local VCS organisations for planning and implementation of all stages of the plan.</li> </ul>

	<p>Winter preparedness and action – 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate public health media messages.</li> <li>• Consider the revisions to the CWP and ensure that the changes are understood across the system. Work with partner agencies to co-ordinate locally appropriate cold weather plans.</li> <li>• Ensure key partners, including all managers of care, residential and nursing homes are aware of the alert system and can access advice.</li> <li>• Review the distribution of the alerts across the system and ensure staff are aware of winter plans and advice.</li> <li>• Ensure that local organisations and professionals are taking appropriate actions in light of the cold weather alerts in accordance with local and national CWP.</li> <li>• Ensure that organisations and staff are prompted to signpost vulnerable clients onwards (e.g. for energy efficiency measures, benefits or related advice).</li> <li>• Liaise with providers of emergency shelter for homeless people to agree plans for severe weather and ensure capacity to scale up provision.</li> <li>• Support communities to help those at risk. Support the development of community emergency plans.</li> <li>• Identify which local health, social care and voluntary and community sector organisations are most vulnerable to the effects of winter weather. Agree plans for winter surge in demand for services. Make sure emergency contacts are up to date.</li> </ul>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">YELLOW</p>	<p>Response – CHA impact on vulnerable people</p>	<p>Professional staff (all settings):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check high-risk people have visitor/phone call arrangements in place.</li> <li>• Reconfirm key public health messages to clients.</li> <li>• Check client’s room temperature if visiting.</li> <li>• Continue to communicate public health messages.</li> <li>• Communicate alerts to staff and make sure that they can take appropriate actions.</li> <li>• Ensure partners, including all managers of care, residential &amp; nursing homes are aware of the alerts and can access advice.</li> <li>• Support local VCS organisations to activate community emergency plans.</li> <li>• Activate business continuity arrangements and emergency plans as required.</li> <li>• Consider how to make best use of available capacity, for example by using community beds for at risk patients who do not need an acute bed and enabling access to step-down care and reablement.</li> <li>• Work with partner agencies (e.g., transport) to ensure road/pavement gritting preparations are in place to allow access to critical services and pedestrian hotspots.</li> </ul>

<b>AMBER</b>	Enhanced Response - CHA impact on health service and whole population	<p>Professional staff (all settings):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit/phone high-risk people.</li> <li>• Reconfirm key public health messages to clients.</li> <li>• Advise carers to contact GP if there are concerns regarding health.</li> <li>• Continue to communicate public health messages.</li> <li>• Communicate alerts to staff and make sure that winter plans are in operation.</li> <li>• Ensure key partners are undertaking action in response to alerts.</li> <li>• Support local voluntary and community sector organisations to mobilise community emergency plans.</li> <li>• Ensure continuity arrangements are working with provider organisations.</li> <li>• Work with partner agencies (e.g., transport) to ensure road/pavement gritting arrangements are in effect to allow access to critical services and pedestrian hotspots.</li> </ul>
<b>RED</b>	Emergency Response – CHA illness and death may occur among the fit and healthy	<p><b>National Emergency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red alerts indicate a national emergency with a risk to life for the general population, with wide ranging temperature impacts outside the health sector. Severe impacts would be expected across all sectors with a coordinated response essential.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Continue AMBER actions unless advised to the contrary.</p>