

## Cold Weather Health Watch Action Card

### Voluntary & Community Sector

#### Level 0: Year-round planning - all year

- Engage with local statutory partners to agree how the community and voluntary sector can contribute to the local community resilience arrangements
- Develop a community emergency plan to:
  - identify and support vulnerable neighbours in the winter
  - assess the impact severe weather might have on the provision and use of usual community venues
  - ensure that pavements and public walkways are cleared of snow and ice in the local community
  - agree support, resources and training to maximise effective use of volunteers
  - support recruitment of volunteers
  - agree mechanisms for distributing food, fuel, emergency heating, health, social care and other provision to vulnerable people
  - review emergency housing and hostel provision
  - agree arrangements with other community groups to maximise contact with vulnerable people.
  - identify available services for vulnerable people and agree signposting arrangements with providers

#### Level 1: Winter preparedness & action programme - 1 November to 31 March

- Test the community emergency plan to ensure that roles and responsibilities and actions are clear.
- Set up rotas of willing volunteers to keep the community safe during inclement weather and to check on vulnerable people and neighbours.
- Support the provision of appropriate advice about the health risks of cold weather/cold housing especially with vulnerable people.
- Ensure that there is a business continuity plan for severe winter weather to ensure support can continue to be given to vulnerable people.
- Actively engage vulnerable people known to be at risk and check on welfare regularly and support them to seek help if necessary.

# Cold Weather Health Watch Action Card

## Voluntary & Community Sector

### Level 2: Severe winter weather is forecast - Alert and readiness

Mean temperatures of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow is predicted with 60% confidence

- Activate the community emergency plan.
- Activate the business continuity plan.
- Continue to actively engage vulnerable people known to be at risk and check on welfare regularly and support them to seek help if necessary.
- Stay tuned to the weather forecast.

### Level 3: Response to severe winter weather - Severe weather action

Mean temperatures of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow

- Implement community emergency plan.
- Contact vulnerable people to ensure they are safe and well and support them to seek help if necessary.
- Ensure volunteers are appropriately supported.
- Implement the business continuity plan.

### Level 4: Major incident - Emergency response

Central government will declare a level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged cold weather affecting sectors other than health.

Response likely to involve:

- National government departments
- Executive agencies
- Public sector, including health sector

All level 3 responsibilities must be maintained during a level 4 incident