

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

WINTER RESILIENCE PLAN

2020 - 2021

Introduction and Background

The Council delivers services year round, but winter-time brings additional challenges. To meet such challenges, some services, in particular environmental services, adjust their approach to deal with the specific issues which wintry weather may bring. However, in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the particular issues that winter may bring, it is felt that a plan encompassing the whole of the Council's approach is necessary. This plan highlights arrangements in place to manage and deliver services during the winter period, assumed to be no later than 31st March 2021.

Groups at greater risk of harm from cold weather

Cold related ill-health is a complex issue involving many factors. However, there are a variety of health risks that can be brought on or exacerbated by cold weather. Factors that increase the risk of ill-health from cold include:

Population Factors

- **older age:** especially those over 75 years old or those living on their own who are socially isolated. Older people are more vulnerable to cold, partly because of an increased likelihood of suffering from pre-existing chronic illness, and partly because of a reduction in fat to retain body heat. They may be more vulnerable to indoor cold because of the increased time they spend at home and a higher prevalence of fuel poverty. However, it should be noted that the health of people of all ages is affected by cold homes.
- **chronic and severe illness:** including heart conditions, circulatory disease, asthma, COPD, depression and anxiety, diabetes and arthritis
- **children under the age of five** are vulnerable to the cold due to immature thermoregulation and a high dependency level
- **homeless people/street sleepers** are vulnerable to the cold due to exposure to outdoor temperatures, and other factors which increase vulnerability to cold, such as social isolation, smoking, substance dependencies, mental illness and chronic and respiratory diseases which are more prevalent in this population

Housing/economic factors

- **Fuel poor homes** are less likely to be warm, dry homes. Fuel poverty is caused by a combination of fuel costs, poor home energy efficiency and low household income. These drivers of fuel poverty are strongly associated with cold homes, and low indoor temperatures have a strong effect on the risk of poor health outcomes.
- **Living in energy inefficient housing.** There have been significant improvements to building regulations over the last decade, and a push to improve the energy efficiency of older homes. However, there are still many homes in England that fall well below modern standards of insulation and heating.
- **Living in houses with mould** increase the risk of respiratory diseases becoming worse in cold weather.
- **Living in deprived circumstances** will reduce the person's ability to heat their home affordably and stay warm.

Source: Public Health England - Cold Weather Plan for England: Making the case: why long-term strategic planning for cold weather is essential to health and wellbeing - 2014

Aims

The aims of this plan are to:-

- detail arrangements in place to manage and deliver services
- contribute towards reducing / eradicating Covid-19 and,
- helping to keep Pendle healthy and well over the winter period.

To do this we will work with partners from across all sectors

Objectives

The objectives of the plan are to:

- Ensure that public health messages from partner organisations are disseminated as required across the Council, external partners and the general public
- Ensure that vulnerable people contacting Pendle Community Support Hub receive relevant signposting information to support organisations as required
- Support LCC as necessary to ensure implementation of their winter highways plan for Pendle
- Ensure that people who are homeless and / or rough sleeping continue to be offered support to help resolve their housing issues
- Ensure residents in need of help to keep their homes warm continue to be provided with advice and assistance to do so
- Support our local VCFSE groups including provision of foodbanks
- Liaise with our external partners including Lancashire Resilience Forum, Lancashire County Council (LCC) Adult Social Care and Pennine Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCGs) in the implementation of their plans.

Strategic Links

This plan supports the wider ***Pendle Council Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023*** and directly supports the delivery of two of the five strategic objectives which are:-

- Helping to create and sustain resilient communities
- Delivering our COVID 19 response and recovery whilst working towards rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating our communities

The plan is also supportive of:-

- ***Borough of Pendle Local Civil Emergency Plan*** – This plan will be activated by the Council, when / if a major incident is declared by the emergency services. However, it may be activated as a result of information, ie. Major accident or potential major incident, provided by the Police or Fire and Rescue services.

- The Council also has a **Pendle Flood Plan (Multi-Agency Flood Plan Part 2)** and **Earby Community Flood Plan** which are used in the event of a flooding emergency
- **Borough of Pendle Business Continuity Management Strategy & Policy** – within which the Council comply with the business continuity requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and which is consistent with corporate governance best practice. Business Continuity plans at Service Area level, will ensure that the Council can continue to deliver an acceptable level of service in its critical functions in the event of any disruption.
 - the Council's current **Business Continuity Plan** is being used to ensure the continuation of Council services through the Covid-19 Pandemic
- **Out of Office Emergencies - Procedures** – The Council provides an out of hours service, which covers a large number of potential emergency situations including homelessness, gas leaks and environmental issues such as flooding, water supplies, sewers and drains. This is often a first point of contact for civil emergencies that may arise in Pendle.

The plan is also complimentary of external statutory organisation winter plans including:-

- LCC Winter Service Plan 2020-21
- LCC Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020-21
- Pennine Lancashire CCG's Severe Weather Plan – including the Flood Plan

Winter Resilience Plan: Action Plan

1. **Ensure that public health messages from partner organisations are disseminated as required across the Council, external partners and the general public**

We will work with our Public Health, CCG and PCN partners to promote key public health messages including uptake of flu jabs, Covid-19 testing and vaccinations, Vitamin D use, Slips and Trips advice, fuel poverty and warm homes advice

2. **Ensure that vulnerable people contacting Pendle Community Support Hub receive relevant signposting information to support organisations as required**

Our Community Support Hub call handlers will signpost vulnerable people to the relevant Pendle services and support organisations including:-

- Pendle Food Alliance and foodbanks across Pendle
- Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services (BPR CVS) including their Social Prescribing Team
- Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Emergency Assistance Grant Scheme (BPR EAGS)
- Burnley & Pendle Citizen's Advice

- Wider Council services eg Revenue and Benefits Team for the Social Isolation Grant

3. Support LCC as necessary to ensure implementation of their winter highways plan for Pendle

LCC is responsible for the highways network in Pendle. It has a statutory duty to produce a Winter Service Plan that ensures they to do all that is reasonably practicable to manage the network effectively to keep traffic moving. The plan focuses on:

- Salt supply, stocks and monitoring. The Council depot at Fleet Street, Nelson, is stocked with 20 tonnes of salt at the start of the winter season and this is regularly monitored and restocked as necessary.

[Read the Lancashire County Council Winter Service Plan](#)

Whilst public footways are covered by LCC, Environmental Services has a plan for the treatment of car parks. Environmental Services will also assist LCC in carrying out treatment to public footways when resources allow.

Both the Council and LCC ensure the public are updated regarding potential service disruption as a result of wintry weather in relation to [gritting and refuse / recycling services](#)

4. Ensure that people who are homeless and / or rough sleeping continue to be offered support to help resolve their housing issues

- The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol will be enacted by the Housing Needs service as and when appropriate
- Housing Needs will continue to provide support to people who are [homeless](#) (including rough sleepers) and those at risk of homelessness. This includes floating support and support from Burnley & Pendle Multi-Disciplinary Team, to help people who are rough sleeping or need help moving from temporary accommodation into more settled accommodation.

5. Ensure residents in need of help to keep their homes warm continue to be provided with advice and assistance to do so

- Environmental Health will continue to uphold tenant's rights to live in accommodation which meets standards as set out in the [Housing, Health and Rating System](#). This includes support to deal with heating issues.
- Working with [Cosy Homes in Lancashire](#) we will support people on low incomes to access support with cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and replacement boilers

6. Support our local VCFSE groups including provision of foodbanks

The Council works closely with many VCFSE groups who deliver services and support residents in Pendle. It is vitally important that this sector continues to be supported, particularly through the covid-19 pandemic which has in many cases severely affected their fund-raising activities and functionality. It is recognised that many of our most vulnerable residents rely on the services and support provided by this sector. The Council will, where reasonably possible, support these organisations to survive and thrive.

One particular area of importance, particularly during the winter period, is the service provided by foodbanks. The Council works closely with Pendle Food Alliance which represents foodbanks across Pendle, and Pendle Food Poverty Network. The Council will be monitoring provision of food during the winter period, and where there is risk to the operation of foodbanks, will offer support where reasonably practical to try to ensure a continuity of service.

7. Liaise with our external partners including Lancashire Resilience Forum, LCC Adult Social Care and Pennine Lancashire CCG's in the implementation of their plans.

Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF)

The Council will continue to work closely with LRF, which is a multi-agency partnership including Lancashire Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council, local authorities, the NHS and others. It is there to make sure the county is prepared for emergencies. It is currently leading the county's response to COVID-19, working 24/7 to make sure organisations across the public and private sector come together to keep people safe.

LCC Adult Social Care Winter Service Plan 2020-21

The Council will work closely with LCC where required in support of their Winter Plan for 20/21 which will support the most vulnerable adults. The plan includes:

- Re-enablement and crisis support services
- Hospital discharge after care services
- Social work team's assessment capacity
- Integrated Home Response and Falls Lifting Service
- Domiciliary, Residential and Nursing Capacity

[Read the Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan](#)

Pennine Lancashire CCG's Severe Weather Plan – including the Flood Plan

The Council will work with the Pennine Lancashire CCGs to support the delivery of their Severe Weather Plan to protect patients and clients against the adverse health consequences as far as possible. Pendle has had high levels of Excess Winter Deaths in the recent past. Direct effects of winter weather include an increase in incidence of heart attack, stroke, respiratory disease, influenza, fall and injuries and Covid-19

[Read the Pennine Lancashire CCG Severe Weather Plan](#)

Fire Safety in the home

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to carry out home safety advice in the home sessions, and will focus on winter issues including: Electric blanket safety, Open fires, Safe use of portable heaters, Alternative lighting and Smoke alarms

<https://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/contact-us/home-fire-safety/>