

Cold Weather Plan for England 2012: Action cards for Cold Weather Alert Service

Community and voluntary sector

Level 0 Long-term 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/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 programme *1 November–31 March*

- Test the community emergency plan to ensure that roles, 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

Level 2 Severe winter weather is forecast – Alert and readiness

Mean temperature of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow are predicted within 48 hours, with 60% confidence

- Activate the community emergency plan
- Actively engage vulnerable people known to be at risk and check on welfare regularly.
- Activate the 'business' continuity plan

*Gov.UK (2012) Request snow clearance from a road, path or cycleway <https://www.gov.uk/request-snow-clearance> (accessed 19 October 2012)

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Level 3 Response to severe winter weather – Severe weather action

Severe winter weather is now occurring: mean temperature 2°C or less and/or widespread ice and heavy snow

- Implement community emergency plan
- Contact vulnerable people at risk to ensure they are safe and well
- 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

- Continue actions as per Level 3 unless advised to the contrary
- Ensure volunteers are appropriately supported