



## 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 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 and 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 Plan for England 2013: Action cards for Cold Weather Alert Service

## 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.
- 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

*Severe winter weather is now occurring: mean temperature of 2°C or less 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

## 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
- implementation of national emergency response arrangements by central government
- follow key public health and weather alert messages as broadcast on the media

The Cold Weather Plan for England 2013 and associated documents can be accessed at [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)