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wakefieldcouncil

Chief Executive's Unit

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To: All Providers

Dear Sir/Madam

PREPARING FOR COLD WEATHER

We would like to draw your attention to the UKHSA Adverse Weather & Health Plan which can be accessed from the following internet site:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adverse-weather-and-health-plan

The Cold Health Watch period started on 1st November 2026. UKHSA have published several action cards for health and social care professionals to prepare for periods of cold weather. These action cards can be accessed below:

UKHSA Action Cards

- Voluntary and Community Sector - Cold-Health Alert action card for the voluntary and community sector - GOV.UK
- Commissioners - Cold-Health Alert action card for commissioners - GOV.UK
- Health & Social Care Providers - Cold-Health Alert action card for health and social care providers - GOV.UK

Please ensure that you read and comply with the guidance fully and ensure that all staff are made aware of the guidance and actions required through training should a heatwave be declared.

It is advised that you regularly check the Met Office weather map at https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/ during the period 1st November – 31st March to ascertain whether a period of cold weather has been predicted.

As part of its implementation of the Severe Weather arrangements, Wakefield Council is seeking your assistance.

The Department of Health has identified certain groups who are particularly at risk during severe weather. These include:

- older people, especially those over 75 years old and/or living on their own, or in a care home
- people suffering from mental ill health, those with dementia and those who rely on help from other people to manage day-to-day activities
- people who are bed-bound
- people taking certain types of medication
- babies and young children under four years old

We would be grateful if you could maintain a list of individuals who are at risk during severe weather and meet the following criteria:

- live alone
- do not receive a daily visit from the provider
- do not (as far as the provider is aware) have a daily visit from a family member or informal carer

Or

- Anyone that you feel is at risk from severe weather through mobility problems, mental health problems, receiving medication likely to give rise to temperature related risks (where known), living in accommodation which cannot easily be kept cool and/or is damp

This information will be requested by Wakefield Council when a severe weather event is anticipated to adequately support our vulnerable service users, which may include the commissioning of additional care and support.

Where you provide services to private clients, we recommend that you maintain a similar list for your use during severe weather events.

Should you require printed versions of any of the guidance detailed above or require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Emergency Planning and Resilience team