

**Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 14 November 2023

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Caring for the vulnerable

## Winter Wellbeing Preparedness

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### Brief Summary

The report highlights plans in place across NHS and Local Government organisations to support health and wellbeing needs of Lancashire residents during the Winter.

### Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Endorse the plans.
- (ii) Consider any future areas for improvement and collaboration.

### Detail

A wide range of organisations have developed plans to support individuals and communities over the 2023/24 winter period. Winter planning is a necessary and critical part of organisational business continuity planning to set out continuity actions, key risks and mitigations, and the management of these during what is typically a more pressured part of the year, especially across the health and care system.

This report identifies some of the key arrangements in place across Lancashire to support winter related health and wellbeing needs of its residents. Of particular note are the plans initiated by Lancashire County Council and the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board; with representatives from these organisations providing an update to the Board meeting. Continuing collaboration, especially with district council colleagues, is however key to delivering the support needed by individuals and communities and maximising the reach and utilisation of the available funding.



## Lancashire County Council

### Adult Social Care

The Lancashire County Council [Winter Plan for Adult Social Care](#) formally comes into operational effect from 1 October 2023 and will run until the 14 April 2024 incorporating resilience across the Easter period and immediately after it.

Adult Social Care is focussed on ensuring preparations are in place to meet the likely challenges of winter, as well as delivering year-round resilience. This year's Winter Plan guidance has required the Authority to take account of:

- the continued challenges and pressures across the health and social care sector.
- the likely prevalence of winter flu and Covid 19.
- continued pressures across the care market.
- sustained workforce challenges including recruitment, retention and fatigued staff who have experienced no real reduction in pressure since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

Services have existing year-round resilience and business continuity plans in place, covering various scenarios such as adverse weather or sudden staffing, environment, or IT related events. In addition, the Acute and Intermediate Care services are partners in the health and social care system resilience and business continuity plans and digital escalation system on each Acute Hospital footprint.

All teams continue to use these plans to inform response actions, and this Winter Plan sits alongside those with enhanced actions to maintain capacity and resilience throughout this time of year as well as responding to NHS surges and associated impacts on social care demand.

### Public Health, Wellbeing and Communities

The Public Health and Wellbeing service continues to plan and work with a range of internal and external partners to deliver interventions to support individuals and communities, including:

- Seasonal and Workforce Flu Programmes – raising awareness and uptake of the NHS Seasonal Flu programme, and provision of a workforce programme to protect staff, particularly frontline staff providing care to vulnerable groups and business critical services.
- Acute respiratory infections – providing relevant advice and guidance to care homes about infectious diseases.
- [Cold Weather alerts](#) – indicating potential health-sector impacts and likelihood of those impacts occurring based on the forecast temperatures, received from United Kingdom Health Security Agency in partnership with the Met Office.
- Affordable Warmth – working with district council housing teams to continue a programme of initiatives, including access to home energy support such as boiler and insulation measures.



- Fuel Advice and Support – continuing support to [British Gas Energy Trust](#) fuel debt project for Lancashire, through with Citizen's Advice.
- Emergency Fuel Vouchers – for those engaging in fuel financial management advice.
- Lancashire Warm Spaces – grant scheme to support access to warm spaces in the community, with an online directory and supportive resources for use by community organisations, together with warm drinks available in Lancashire's libraries, alongside targeted support and information.
- [Lancashire Community Food Grant Scheme](#) – supporting local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector organisations to tackle food insecurity. The funding round has recently closed, with bids currently being evaluated.
- Food Support – during school holidays for households with children eligible for free school meals during school holidays.
- A dedicated [Cost-of-Living Hub](#) detailing the support available to residents and businesses across Lancashire, including information on how to access welfare benefits and financial support, help with energy, support with food and help getting into work. The Hub will also link to the Lancashire Warm Spaces initiative.
- Household Goods Support Scheme – supplementing the current [Under One Roof](#) essential household goods support scheme (essential household items to those individuals/families who do not have access to sufficient income or funds to meet their immediate needs, along with help and advice in seeking more sustainable support).
- Pensioner Benefit Uptake Scheme – ongoing delivery of the pensioner benefit uptake campaign, by the Welfare Rights Service, in collaboration with district council colleagues, offering free welfare benefit checks to pensioners on low incomes across Lancashire. This year (1 April to 30 September 2023) the cash gains into Lancashire amount to c£900k on an annual basis.

## Highways

The [Winter in Lancashire](#) webpages include the Winter Service Plan 2023/24 which sets out how the Council, as Highway Authority for Lancashire, meets its policy for the treatment of roads, footways and cycleways during the winter period: enabling a safe passage for vehicles and pedestrians, minimising delays due to winter weather and ensuring operations are undertaken safely.

## NHS – Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

NHS winter preparedness planning is based on national guidance, and addresses two key measures:

- 76% of patients being admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours by March 2024, and improvement 2024/25.
- Category 2 ambulance response times - average of 30 minutes over 2023/24 and improvement 2024/25.



And four key areas:

- High impact interventions.
- Reviewing the operational plan and trajectories:
  - Focus on Christmas and New Year
  - Mobilising additional capacity ie Flu/Covid
- System partner working.
- Supporting workforce – improve retention and staff attendance (vaccinations, wellbeing).

The planning process for 2023/24 addresses the following key lines of enquiry:

- How will the system work together to delivery on its collective responsibilities.
- How the 10 high-impact interventions will be delivered.
- Planning for discharge, intermediate care and social care provision.
- Narrative supporting amendments from operational plan numerical.
- Escalation plans.
- Workforce.

To support the winter planning, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board received £40.147m, with plans as follows:

- £28.355m supporting nine programmes of work eg home first, community beds, acute frailty units, hospital beds.
- £11.792m being utilised for existing provision eg clinical assessment service, integrated urgent care, discharge to assess provision.

Officers will be attending the Board meeting to discuss winter preparedness and collaboration to support individuals and communities.

### **List of background papers**

N/A

