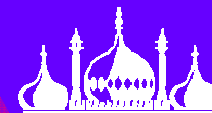


# The Cold Weather Plan for Brighton & Hove Update Winter 2020/21

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**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Context

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- Sits alongside CCG and NHS Winter Plans
- **Cold Weather Watch** – 1st November to 31st March Met Office predictions; Levels 0-4
- **Adult [Social Care Winter Plan](#)**,
- **COVID-19 pandemic** –need for shielding and self-isolation,
- **EU Exit** (staff, supplies, meds)
- expanded **Flu** programme
- **Business continuity** plans
- Sussex Resilience Forum

The Winter Cold Weather Plan has an assurance function;

- Alerts and severe weather warnings routinely shared
- Relevant Level actions taken
- Service users risk assessed – appropriate support for vulnerable
- Partnership approach to preparedness and response
- Strategic approach to the reduction of EWDs, cold homes and fuel poverty
- Practical preparations
- Co-ordinate approach re COVID19, Flu etc



## The effects of cold weather on health

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- England ave. 25,000 excess winter deaths (EWD) – due to cold temps, cold homes, flu etc. - higher than Finland.
- B&H est. EWD index 31.9 equivalent to 210 EWDs . England (30.1)
- B&H third highest for CIPFA comparators, fifth highest of the 19 LAs in SE ( ave 30.2)
- Vast majority of EWD in people aged 65+

### Cold homes:

- 11.3% households in B&H in fuel poverty = 14,575 households (Eng. Ave, 10.3%, SE 7.9%)
- 4.4% in B&H without central heating (1% Woodingdean, 10.9% in Regency)
- 16% in B&H cannot heat their homes often/most days



## The effects of cold weather on health

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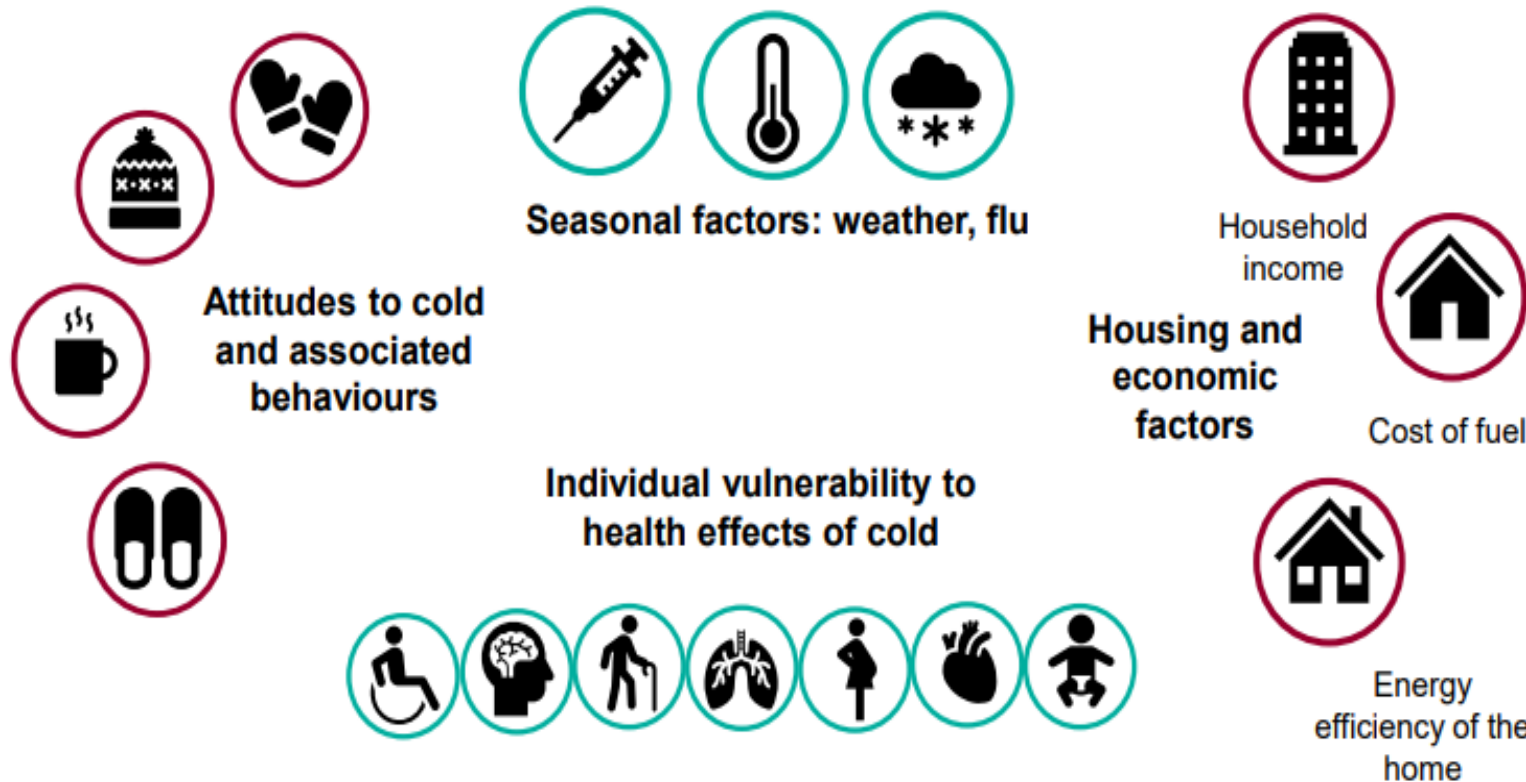
outdoor below 8°C &  
indoor below 18°C  
vulnerable people are at  
increased risk of:

- heart attack
  - stroke
  - flu
  - pneumonia
  - falls and injuries
  - hypothermia
  - Magnified in certain conditions e.g. dementia
- Reduced thermoregulatory control & thermal perception with ageing.
  - Living in cold environment increases blood pressure & risk of blood clotting (cholesterol and fibrinogen).
  - Negative respiratory effects seen at indoor daytime temps of less than 21°C and less than 18°C at night.

# Who is affected by cold?

Excess Winter Deaths (EWDs) represent an important health inequality – people who experience greater socio-economic deprivation are more likely to be affected.

Multi-agency action is required to address wider determinants of health that impact on risk from cold such as socio-economic inequalities, fuel poverty and housing energy efficiency.



## Who is most vulnerable – shared risk factors with C19

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Cold weather can affect anyone, but the most vulnerable are:

- Older people (esp. 75+, frail, socially isolated)
- People with pre-existing chronic medical conditions e.g. such as heart disease, stroke or TIA, diabetes
- Esp. respiratory conditions e.g. Asthma, COPD
- People with mental ill-health - reduces ability to self-care (including dementia)
- Pregnant women (potential impact on foetus)
- Children - newborn to school age
- People with learning disabilities
- People at risk of/have recurrent falls
- Housebound people or with low mobility
- People living in deprived circumstances, fuel poor, house mould
- Homeless or people sleeping rough
- Other marginalised or socially isolated individuals or groups.

# Local Process

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- **BHCC Emergency Planning & Resilience Team (24hr)** will alert council depts,
- **Health & Adult Social Care** – new requirements of the ASC Winter Plan; routine alerts to Care Homes, Home Care Providers etc; in-house, contracted, independent . SWEP
- **NHS England** will alert all health trusts and SECAmb all of whom will have alerts, plans, etc in place too.
- **Communications** - tailored for both public and staff groups will be shared via Council website and social media.e.gs
- <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/parking-and-travel/roads-and-highways/winter-weather>
- **Directorate roles** – e,g Highways, Housing, ASC



The 5 alert levels are shown in Fig. 2.2 below as being:

<b>Level 0</b>	<b>Year-round planning</b> <i>All year</i>
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Winter preparedness and action programme</b> <i>1 November to 31 March</i>
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Severe winter weather is forecast – Alert and readiness</b> <i>mean temperature of 2°C or less for a period of at least 48 hours and/or widespread ice and heavy snow are predicted, with 60% confidence</i>
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Response to severe winter weather – Severe weather action</b> <i>Severe winter weather is now occurring: mean temperature of 2°C or less and/or widespread ice and heavy snow.</i>
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Major incident – Emergency response</b> <i>Central Government will declare a Level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged cold weather affecting sectors other than health</i>



# Key messages

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- COVID19 safe
- IP&C measures
- Duty of care
- Flu vaccinations
- PPV vacs, norovirus
- Weather alerts
- Working with service providers – winter readiness
- Risk assess clients
- Public Comms
- Community engagement
- Partners to agree plans for winter surge in - best use of capacity
- Heating / cold homes questions;
  - Healthwatch Hospital Discharge Well-being service
  - Questions at discharge
  - Questions at Community Hub
  - Questions at self isolation
- Preparing the environment - gritters etc



# Key messages

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- SWEP = feels 0/1 night
- C19 safe sleeping plans
- support to tenants
- Support to PRS
- Support to home owners
- Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP)  
Energy advice, installations, kits, financial advice, cheaper deals etc
- Warmth for Wellbeing partnership
  - Home assessments in line COVID-19 guidance
  - Debt & Benefits Casework
  - Small hardship grants
- Fuel Poverty & Affordable warmth strategy
- EU SHINE project extn ?
- CAB Your Energy Sussex– fuel vouchers
- BHESCo initiatives

