

**Health and Adult Services  
Meeting of Health and Adult Services Executive**

**14 August 2020**

**Health and Adult Services (HAS) Heatwave Management**

<b>1</b>	<b>Key purpose of the report</b>  To provide information to Members about the HAS heatwave management document which has been updated to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reference to the NHS heatwave plan for England dated May 2020</li> <li>2) Coping with heat and Covid 19</li> <li>3) Specific advice and a heatwave checklist to support in house provider services to keep residents safe and well during Covid-19.</li> </ol>	
<b>2</b>	<b>What type of report is this?</b>  Information/briefing item Does the report contain any confidential information?	Y N
<b>3</b>	<b>Report details</b>  The NHS Heatwave plan for England May 2020 provides three recommendations for local authorities (page 36) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The NHS heatwave plan guidance should be reviewed and local authorities should satisfy themselves that the suggested actions and the heatwave alert service are understood across their locality. Local heatwave plans should be updated.</i>            In response to this we have updated our HAS heatwave plan to reflect the actions and changes around the heatwave alert system.            The system has changed from the previous GREEN YELLOW AMBER and RED alerts and now comprise of four levels            Level 1: Summer preparedness and long-term planning            Level 2: Heatwave is forecast - Alert and readiness            Level 3: Heatwave action            Level 4: Major Incident - Emergency response            The Heat-Health Watch system will operate in England from 01 June to 15 September each year. During this period, the Met Office may forecast heatwaves, as defined by forecasts of day and night time temperatures and their duration.</li> <li>2. <i>Local authorities should review the process heatwave alerts are distributed across the local health and social care systems to satisfy themselves that the alerts reach those that need to take appropriate actions.</i>            The HAS Heatwave management plan has therefore, been brought up to date. The process of notification and activation of the Heatwave management plan would be following receipt of a level 3 or 4 alert it will trigger consideration for activation of the</li> </ol>	

	<p>HAS Heatwave plan by the AD for Care and Support.</p> <p>As with the Cold Watch Alerts key members of HAS staff including the AD Care and Support, Heads of Service, contracting staff, and Head of Performance and Intelligence all directly receive Emails from the Met Office. While activation of the plan is at Level 3, it is advised that staff are kept informed when there is either going to be a change between any levels, up or down. It will be the responsibility of the Locality Heads of Service and Head of Provider Services to ensure the onward cascade of information to staff in their areas.</p> <p>3. <i>The local authority, together with Local Resilience Forums, should seek assurance that organisations and key stakeholders are taking appropriate actions in light of the heatwave alert messages.</i></p> <p>Until the point the HAS heatwave plan is triggered the responsibility for seeking assurances would be part of business as usual governance. Once the Heatwave plan has been triggered the Heatwave Operational Management Team (HOT) will then assume responsibility for the monitoring of actions.</p> <p>Alongside the recommendations above, the requirement to consider the implications of Covid-19 and heatwave guidance has been included within the HAS Heatwave Plan which includes the following advice:</p> <p>One of the potential symptoms of coronavirus is a high temperature. This, combined with the ambient temperature within the building may cause difficulty in keeping the person comfortable.</p> <p>The poster from PHE _ Keep residents safe and well during COVID-19 gives tips on how to keep people cool. Below are a few ideas to manage temperature everyone and the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To try and lower the building temperature and give a natural flow through of air, open doors and windows particularly at night when the air is cooler and this will help to cool the building for the following day.</li> <li>• Fans are only allowed in single bedrooms where the person does not have or is not suspected of having coronavirus. Fans must face into the room and are not recommended in communal areas according to current guidance.</li> <li>• Air conditioning systems are accepted, they must be fresh air flow and have the appropriate filter fitted. Contact your property services officer for more information if you are unsure.</li> </ul> <p>The approach advocated by the NHS Heatwave plan for England is on advanced planning and preparedness especially as evidence suggests that in contrast to deaths associated with extreme cold weather the rise in mortality as a result of very warm weather follows very sharply, within one or two days of the temperature rising. By having simple preventative measures and plans in place we can reduce health impacts. One of the areas that may be impacted by a heatwave would be the in house provider services. A heatwave checklist has been created to support provider services to plan and prepare for a heatwave. This checklist has already been shared with colleagues and the planning and actions required prior to a heatwave are underway.</p>
4	<p><b>Significant risks and mitigation</b></p> <p>1. The HAS heatwave plan seeks to mitigate the risks highlighted within the NHS heatwave plan for England May 2020. The approach of planning and preparedness</p>

	<p>taken within the HAS heatwave management plan should maintain resilience and continuity to the impacts that a Heatwave may bring.</p> <p>2. The situation with Covid-19 continues to evolve and there may be a need for HAS to respond to changes to national guidance. Should guidance change the mechanism to respond to this are in place currently and will be followed.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Financial implications/benefits (include any financial implications for the Council, positive or negative)</b></p> <p>No financial implications at this stage.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>1. Approval of the HAS Heatwave plan dated June 2020.</p> <p>2. The PHE / DHSC will review the heatwave plan each Spring. HAS should review the local heatwave plan following release of the review by PHE. In the meantime, if further changes to guidance are made the HAS heatwave plan will be updated to reflect this are shared with HASEX.</p>

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**5 August 2020**