

**Wiltshire Council**

**Health and Wellbeing Board**

**20 November 2014**

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**Subject: Getting Ready for Winter**

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**Executive Summary**

Jane Ellison MP, Minister for Public Health, has written to Health and Wellbeing Boards to raise awareness of the Get Ready for Winter Campaign. This short paper provides an outline of the work underway in Wiltshire.

**Proposal(s)**

It is recommended that the Board notes the activity underway.

**Reason for Proposal**

To ensure awareness of arrangements for winter preparedness amongst key partners, allied to the work on systems resilience.

**James Cawley**  
**Associate Director, Adult Social Care Commissioning, Safeguarding & Housing**  
**Wiltshire Council**

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#### Subject: Getting Ready for Winter

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#### Purpose of Report

1. To ensure awareness of arrangements for winter preparedness amongst key partners, allied to the work on systems resilience.

#### Background

2. Jane Ellison MP, Minister for Public Health, has written to Health and Wellbeing Boards to raise awareness of the Get Ready for Winter Campaign. A copy of the letter is at **Appendix 1**. This short paper provides an outline of the work underway in Wiltshire.

#### Main Considerations

3. The letter raises key elements of Winter Preparedness, set out below, with an outline of activity underway.

#### Influenza

4. Wiltshire Council has undertaken the following actions promoting flu vaccinations throughout the county:
  - Identifying and promoting flu vaccination among frontline staff;
  - Offering flu vaccination among the wider workforce at a reduced rate;
  - Providing information to both the general public and staff regarding those who are eligible for free flu vaccination via:
    - Area board health fair events; campaign information table within County Hall; distribution of leaflets to all libraries.
    - Dissemination of posters and leaflets to all maternity services in the area, including flu passports and scan mount cards displaying a reminder to pregnant women to take up the flu vaccination.
    - Supporting Early Years and Childcare settings in reducing infection risks

#### Norovirus

5. Norovirus, also known as winter vomiting disease, causes gastroenteritis and is highly infectious. Symptoms include vomiting, projectile vomiting, diarrhoea and fever. The virus is easily transmitted through contact with infected individuals from one person to another and outbreaks are

common in semi-enclosed environments such as hospitals. The illness caused by the virus is usually mild, self-limiting and lasts for 1 to 2 days with most people making a full recovery within a couple of days. However, it can be dangerous for the very young and elderly people leading to admission to acute care if they become dehydrated as a consequence of vomiting or diarrhoea thus increasing the risk of outbreaks.

6. Wiltshire CCG has worked with Local Acute Trusts and community hospitals to ensure robust action plans are in place (based on national guidelines published by Health Protection England) to identify and manage patients who may present with or develop the infection during their inpatient stay.
7. Public Health England's AGW team has also issued a revised version of the Norovirus toolkit (2014) which is useful in supporting preparations and response for viral gastroenteritis across health & social care. The toolkit include two sets of resources: one set that can be used to raise awareness of Norovirus within the wider community at this time of the year and a second set that can be used when it is known that a virus is circulating in the community.

### **Health and Social Care Integration**

8. Work continues on a range of initiatives as part of the 100 day challenge and the delivery of the Better Care Plan. A summary of these is attached for ease as Appendix 2.

### **Cold Weather**

9. Wiltshire Council works closely with the Wiltshire Affordable Warmth Partnership to reduce the impacts of fuel poverty in the county. Wiltshire Council has also promoted the information contained in the 'Cold Weather Plan for England' in the following ways:
  - Increasing awareness by proactively publicising the website on the Wiltshire Council website.
  - Protecting the vulnerable by disseminating cold weather action cards to social care staff and providers.
  - Increasing awareness in the community by making the cold weather plan an integral part of community resilience workshops.
  - Increasing our preparedness by reviewing our business continuity and emergency plans in line with current best practice.
10. We have launched a new initiative to make people's homes safer, warmer and cheaper to heat by working in partnership with Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service to develop Warm & Safe Wiltshire. A new Advice and Referral hub at County Hall in Trowbridge will provide people with advice and information about ways of cutting their energy bills, getting the best deals from gas and electricity suppliers and improving fire safety in their homes.

11. There are around 28,000 households in fuel poverty in Wiltshire, according to figures from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Warm and Safe Wiltshire aims to provide practical help to increase comfort and safety levels by providing, for example, draught proofing kits and fire prevention equipment to eligible households through a team of Warm and Safe community-based surveyor.

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**Associate Director, Adult Social Care Commissioning, Safeguarding & Housing**  
**Wiltshire Council**

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**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Letter from Jane Ellison MP, Public Health Minister  
Appendix 2 – Overview of Health and Social Care Integration