



UK Health
Security
Agency



Adverse Weather and Health Plan

Easy Read booklet



Our plan for adverse weather



We are the **UKHSA**. We work to make sure people in the UK are as safe as possible.

We made a plan for **adverse weather**.



Adverse weather is when the weather is very bad. It can mean it isn't safe for people.

Our plan includes **9 areas** we are working on to make sure people can be safer in bad weather.



We are making our plan happen across the UK and in local places too.

Our goals



We have **4 main goals**

- Stop people losing their lives in bad weather
- Stop people dying earlier because of bad weather
- Stop people getting ill or injured in bad weather
- Stop people using healthcare services because of bad weather



We are working on these goals over the next 2 years. We might make changes if we have to.

Our 9 objectives



We have **9 objectives**.

Objectives are what we want to do to make the goals happen.

We call these **action areas** to



1. Make services better
2. Work closely with other sectors in public health and healthcare
3. Be more organised working with other groups
4. Make sure everyone knows if bad weather is coming
5. Look at the risks of bad weather
6. Have an early warning system
7. Research and look at data
8. Write a **Quality Plan** in 2024
9. Write a policy and legal plan



Managing the plan

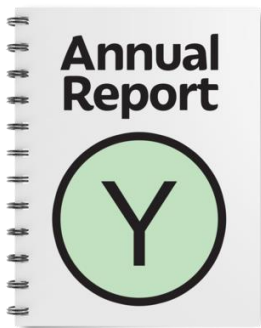


We know we need to manage the plan well.

We will work across government and with local government to make it happen.



We will also work with other groups and sectors. For example, we will work with **voluntary groups** and **social care**.



We know we need to be responsible for making the weather systems as safe as we can.

We will write an **Annual Report** to tell people about the work we are doing.

Our programme of work



Our **2023 - 2024 plan** is about heat, cold and flooding.

Our next plan will be about

- thunderstorms
- asthma
- drought
- storms



Every plan will have

- guidance
- evidence
- weather health alerts



Guidance



Our guidance will help you to prepare for adverse weather.

We have made guidance on

- ✓ extreme heat
- ✓ cold
- ✓ flooding



We have also made guidance on **weather health alerts**.



We need local organisations and our partners to look at the 9 action areas.

We need them to follow the 9 action areas and act on the advice we give.



Evidence



Evidence is information we already have about something that has happened.

We will use this **evidence** to



- **predict the weather** – this means we can tell what the weather will be like
- find out what happened when there was similar weather in the past
- decide whether there are risks to people's health
- give advice about what to do, to stay as safe as possible



More about evidence



We work with the **Met Office** so that we can give out warnings when we need to.



We use a **Weather Health Alert** system. This lets people know how serious the weather might be.

We use **green, yellow, amber and red alerts** to make it easier to see how serious the alert is.



You can read our guidance on this in easy read.

Action Areas – services and training



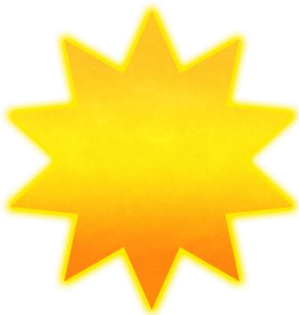
We need everyone we work with to build the **9 action areas** into their work.

This will help us to be ready if **adverse weather** happens.



Everyone we work with should have up to date

- ✓ plans for services
- ✓ guidance for summer and winter



We need health and social care staff to be ready for **adverse weather** like extreme cold and extreme heat.



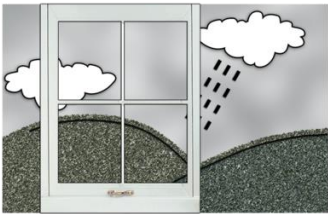
We want staff to have the right training so they can deal with any situation to do with the weather.

Action Areas – organising and communicating



We need everyone we work with to be

- organised and ready for **adverse weather** if it happens
- ready to learn from **adverse weather** in the past
- ready to plan exercises in real time to test the **adverse weather** plans



We need everyone we work with to

- **communicate** together so that different groups can follow the plan
- **communicate** to the public what is happening
- **communicate** to people who are most at risk – for example homeless people



Action Areas – communicating



We need everyone we work with to use our **communication toolkit** to

- ✓ tell people about what to do in **adverse weather**
- ✓ tell vulnerable people like the elderly and children what to do in **adverse weather**



We will put important messages on our website at **gov.uk**



We want different people to be part of focus groups.

This will help us to know the best way to communicate important messages.



The Met Office have a [weather ready campaign](#). And they have information leaflets about different weather conditions.

Action Areas – managing risk



We need everyone to know about the different risks from **adverse weather**.

We work closely with our partners to give the best advice. We use tools like



✓ **horizon scanning** - this is when we look ahead to see what weather might be coming

✓ **National Security Risk Assessment** - this is a government tool



✓ **National Risk Register**

✓ **Local and community Risk Registers**

Early Warning Systems are key to our plan. We use different colours to tell you the risk of each weather alert and what to do.

Green - no alert



We will not send any alerts.
There is no risk to people's health
because of the weather.

This is a good time for organisations
to plan for hot or cold weather.

Yellow alert



We expect hot or cold weather.
It will not affect most people.

It might affect people who are very
old, young, disabled or unwell.

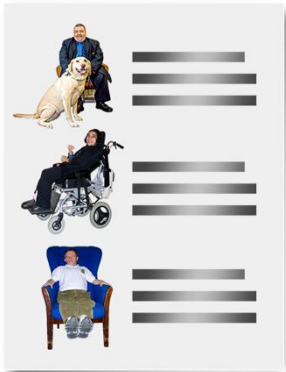


Health and social care organisations
must make sure that these people
are healthy and safe.

Amber alert



We are expecting very hot or very cold weather. It is likely to affect everyone.



Some people are more at risk of being unwell or dying because of the weather.

Emergency services, GPs and care services will be busier than normal. The weather might also make it harder for them to work.



Other things may also be affected. For example, roads, water supplies and schools.



Red alert



We are expecting extreme hot or cold weather. Even healthy people are more likely to be unwell or die because of the weather.

Lots of things are very likely to be affected. For example:



- hospitals, care homes and day centres may not be able to work as normal



- trains may be cancelled and roads may be blocked

- schools may close



- electricity, water or gas supplies may be cut off

Action Areas – research, data and quality



Research and data help us to keep track of weather.

We collect as much information as we can.



We publish this data so that people can see how people have been affected by

- ✓ weather
- ✓ other public health situations – for example information on **flu** and a bad virus called **norovirus**



Our plan helps organisations to have good quality services.

We have tools that can help manage quality checks.

Action Areas – policy and legal



We need organisations to write good policies about

- ✓ the weather
- ✓ how **climate change** might be affecting our weather



We follow the law to do with **Climate Change** and make sure we follow government policies.



We have new activities for our **2024-2025 Plan**.

These activities will always link back to **evidence**.

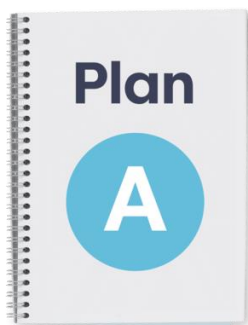
Our plan for **2023-2024** is running now.

Keeping people safe



We know that some groups of people are more at risk from **adverse weather**.

We are working with **health and social care** organisations to keep these people safer.



You can read more about these groups in our easy read booklet.

We need everyone we work with to deliver our plan.



We need this to happen with

- **NHS England**
- **Integrated Care Systems**
- **Local authorities**



We need the government and other agencies to help us make the Plan happen too.

Volunteers and the community



We need people in the community to use this Plan to help make their own local Plan.

We know that **volunteer groups** can reach people in the community that we might not know about.



These groups can help people most at risk and give them things like **blankets and shelter** in bad weather.

Links to useful information



Register for health alerts

[Link to online registration form](#)



Met Office

Weather forecasts

[Link to Met Office website](#)



Being ready for the weather

[Link to Met Office advice for the current season](#)



England

NHS England

[How to stay well during summer and winter](#)