



## Launch of Cold Weather Plan for England

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The Cold Weather Plan for England launched on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The plan aims to raise both professional and public awareness of the health impacts of cold temperatures and is a key component of emergency planning. It provides advice for professionals, organisations and individuals to enable them to plan for and respond to cold temperatures.

The following documents are available online at <http://www.gov.uk/phe/cold-weather-plan>

- The Cold Weather Plan for England
- Making the Case: why long-term strategic planning for cold weather is essential for health and wellbeing
- Action cards based on the plan
- “Keep Warm Keep Well” booklet

As indicated previously, the 2015 edition of the plan remains in place until further notice.

The Met Office will issue Cold Weather Alerts from 1 Nov 2017 to 31 March 2018. There are five levels:

- Level 0 (long term planning, all year)
- Level 1 (winter preparedness and action, 1 Nov to 31 March)
- Level 2 (severe winter weather is forecast – alert and readiness1)
- Level 3 (response to severe winter weather – severe weather action2)
- Level 4 (major incident – Emergency response - declared by central government)

1 - mean temperature of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow for a period of at least 48 hours, with 60% confidence.

2 - mean temperature of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow is now occurring.

The distribution list for the cold weather alerts is managed directly by the Met Office.

New registrations and amendments to existing registrations need to contact the Met Office on [Enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk) providing name, organisation and email address (.nhs or .gov or provide organisation type).

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