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Adverse Weather and Health Plan (AWHP) Micro Teach

Agostinho Sousa, MD MPH MBA FFPH

AWHP Implementation Team coordinator

Head of the Extreme Events and Health Protection

UKHSA Centre for Climate and Health Security

Aim and Learning outcomes

Aim - To confirm that you have a basic knowledge of the AWHP

Learning outcomes - By the end of the session, you will be able to:

- Outline the four key components of the AWHP
- Identify the weather hazards covered by the AWHP
- Locate the current guidance in the gov.uk website

The Adverse Weather and Health Plan for England



- National Adaptation Programme commitment delivered in April 2023
- Protect individuals and communities from the health effects of adverse weather and to build community resilience

Source: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan - GOV.UK](#)

Weather hazards covered by the AWHP



Included in the NRR

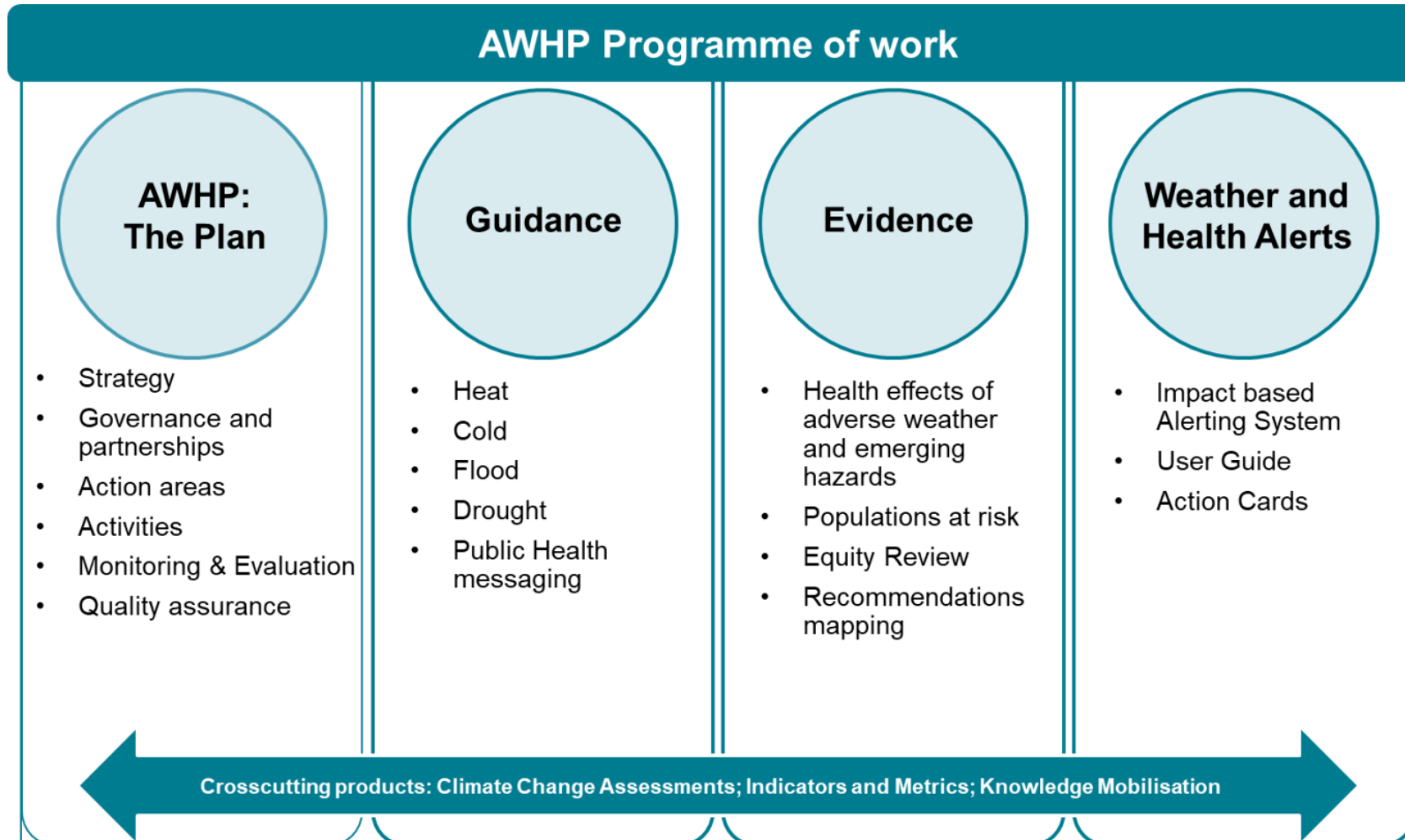
- High temperatures and heatwaves (Heat)
- Low temperatures and snow (Cold)
- Coastal flooding (Flooding)
- Fluvial flooding (Flooding)
- Surface water flooding (Flooding)
- Drought
- Storms
- Wildfires
- Poor air quality

Not included in NRR

- Thunderstorm asthma

Source: [National Risk Register 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101234/national-risk-register-2025.pdf)

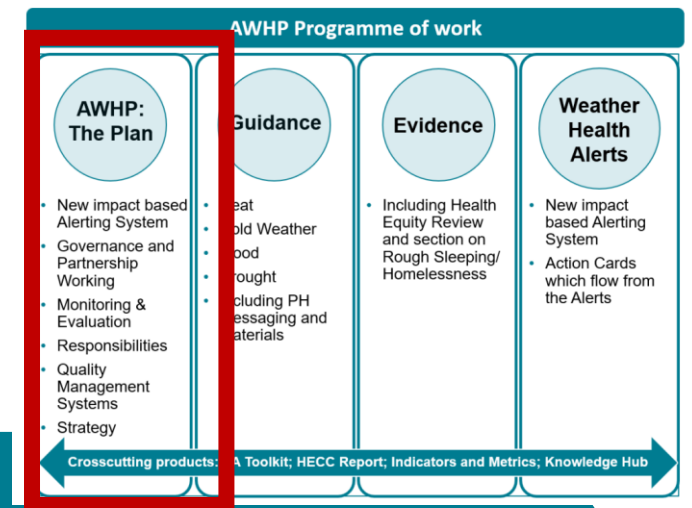
AWHP Programme of Work





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The Plan

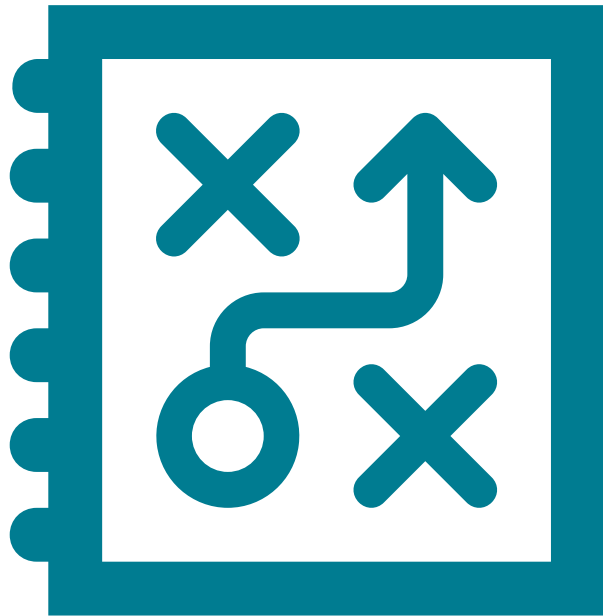


Goals



- Prevent the increase in years of life lost due to adverse weather events
- Prevent mortality due to adverse weather events
- Prevent morbidity due to adverse weather events
- Reduce the use of healthcare services due to adverse weather events

Objectives and Action Areas



9 Objectives, in alignment with its 9 Action Areas

- Service Delivery
- Communication
- Capacity Building
- Risk Management
- Early Warning Systems
- Quality Assurance
- Organisational Arrangements
- Research and Data Analysis
- Policy Development

Source: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612342/Adverse_Weather_and_Health_Plan.pdf)

Partnerships and coordination – AWHP Steering Group



Cabinet Office



Department
for Education



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Ministry
of Justice



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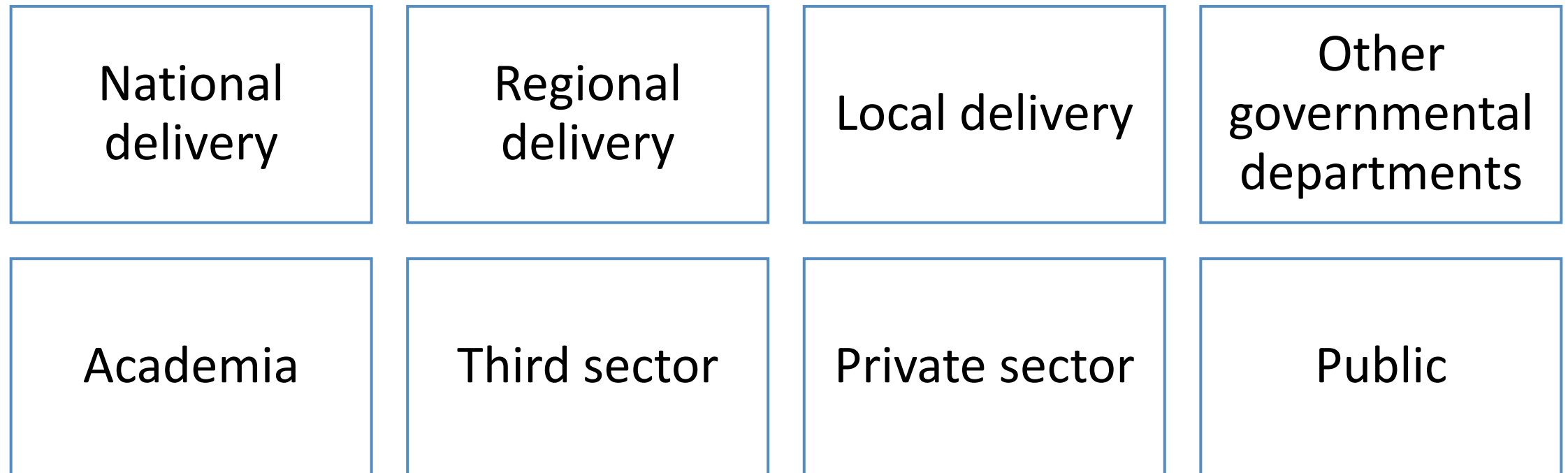


Met Office



Source: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adverse-weather-and-health-plan)

Delivery groups for the AWHP (Appendix 1)



Source: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan - GOV.UK](#)

Activities and Indicators



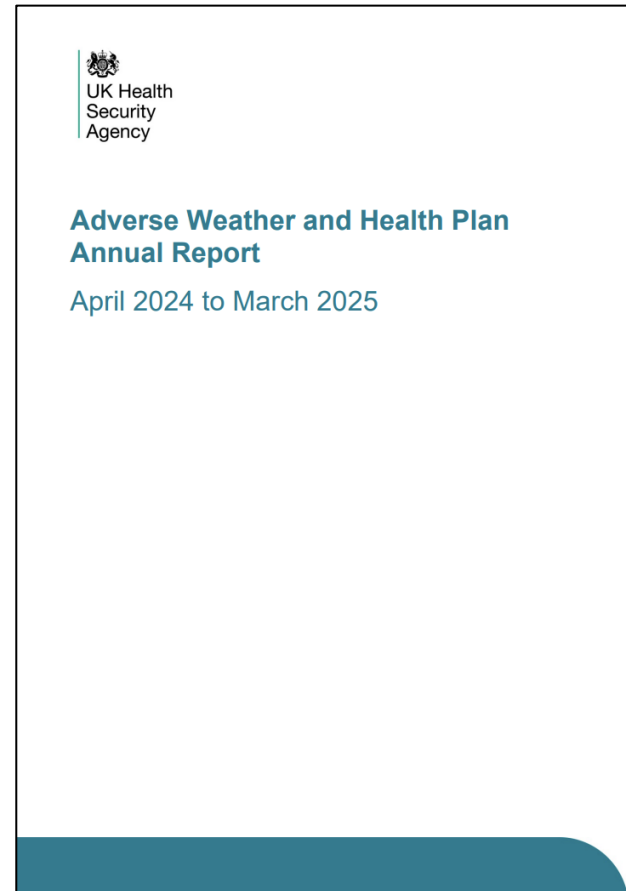
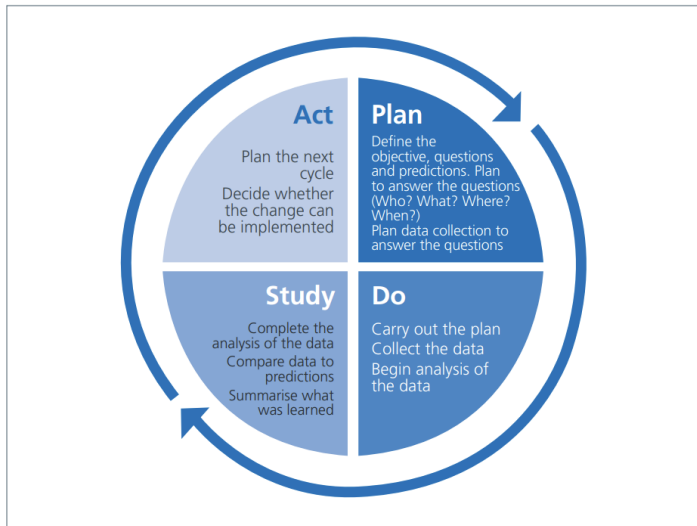
8.4 Appendix 4 – global indicators analysis

Indicator ID	Global indicator	AHP indicator	Metric	Report	Date Period
SDG 1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Children in absolute low-income families (under 16)	Number and %	2,030,840 18.7%	27/03/2025 (FYE 2024)
		Children in relative low-income families (under 16)	Number and %	2,354,687 21.8%	27/03/2025 (FYE 2024)
SDG 1.5.1/13.1.1 SF A-2	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Years of life lost due to heat	Years of life lost	16,239	03/04/2025 (Summer 2024)
		Rate of mortality due to heat	Rate per 100,000	2.3	03/04/2025 (Summer 2024)
SDG 11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	% households living in fuel poverty under the Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator definition	%	11.0%	27/03/2025 (2024)
		% of Domestic Properties which EPC certificates are grade C or above	%	60.72%	30/10/2025
		% of England house stock likely to be considered 'Cold Homes'	%	12.7%	2023/24 13/09/2024
		Number of households claiming Cold Homes payment	Number	1,184,429	16/09/2025

Source: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan Annual Report 2024 to 2025](#)

Monitoring and evaluation

Figure 2: PDSA cycle



- Monitoring activities and impacts
 - AWHP Annual Report
 - Heat and Cold Mortality Monitoring Reports
- Surveys
 - Capacity building events
 - Weather-Health Alerts
- Workshops and meetings
 - AWHP Steering Group
 - AWHP Implementation Team
- EPRR
 - Lessons identified
 - Exercises
 - Debriefs
- Audits and compliance

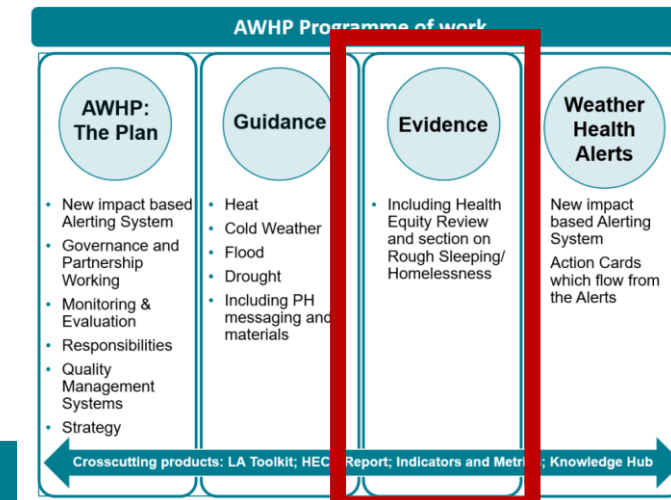
Reference 1: [NHS England and NHS Improvement - Plan, Do, Study, Act \(PDSA\) cycles and the model for improvement](#)

Reference 2: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan Annual Report 2024 to 2025](#)

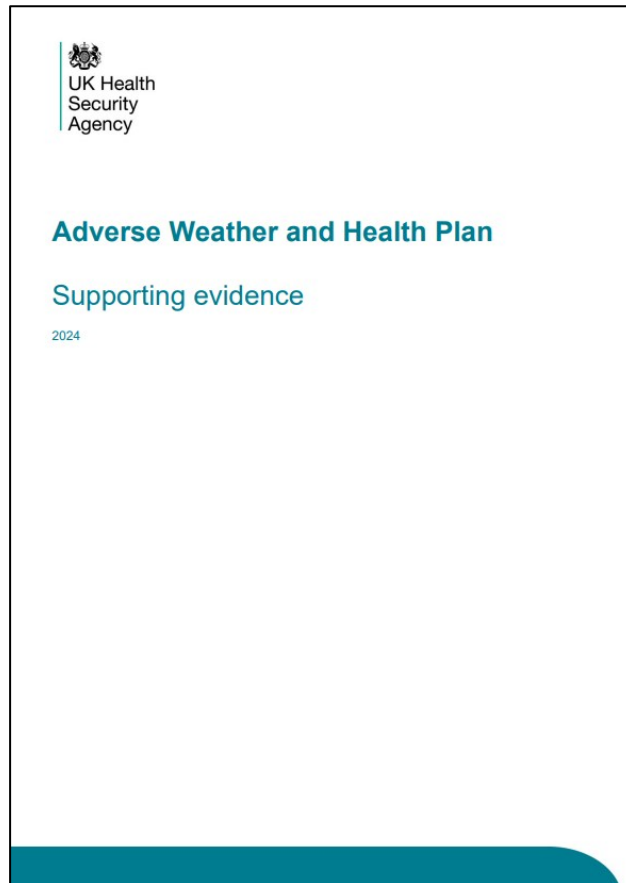
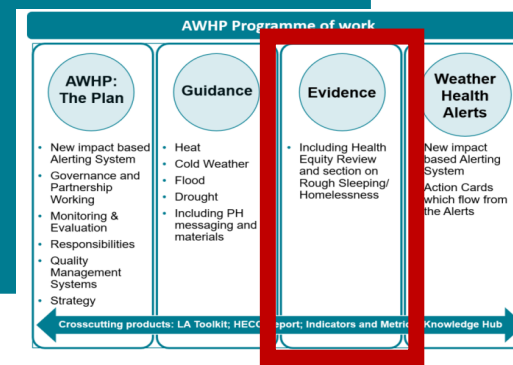


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Evidence



Support evidence document



- Explores the impacts of adverse weather and climate change on health and wellbeing
- Identifies vulnerable populations most at risk from adverse weather events
- Provides a comprehensive set of actions and recommendations from national policies to guide responses across different sectors

Source: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan: Supporting evidence](#)

Heat and Cold Mortality Monitoring reports

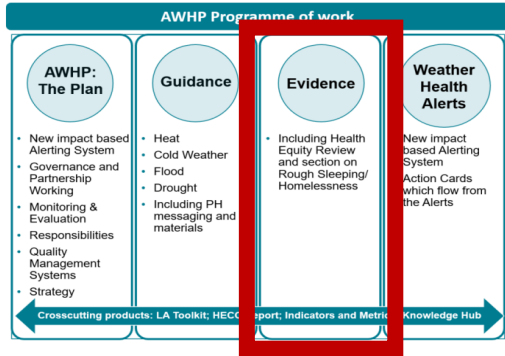


Figure 1. Daily deaths and daily mean temperature, England, summer 2024

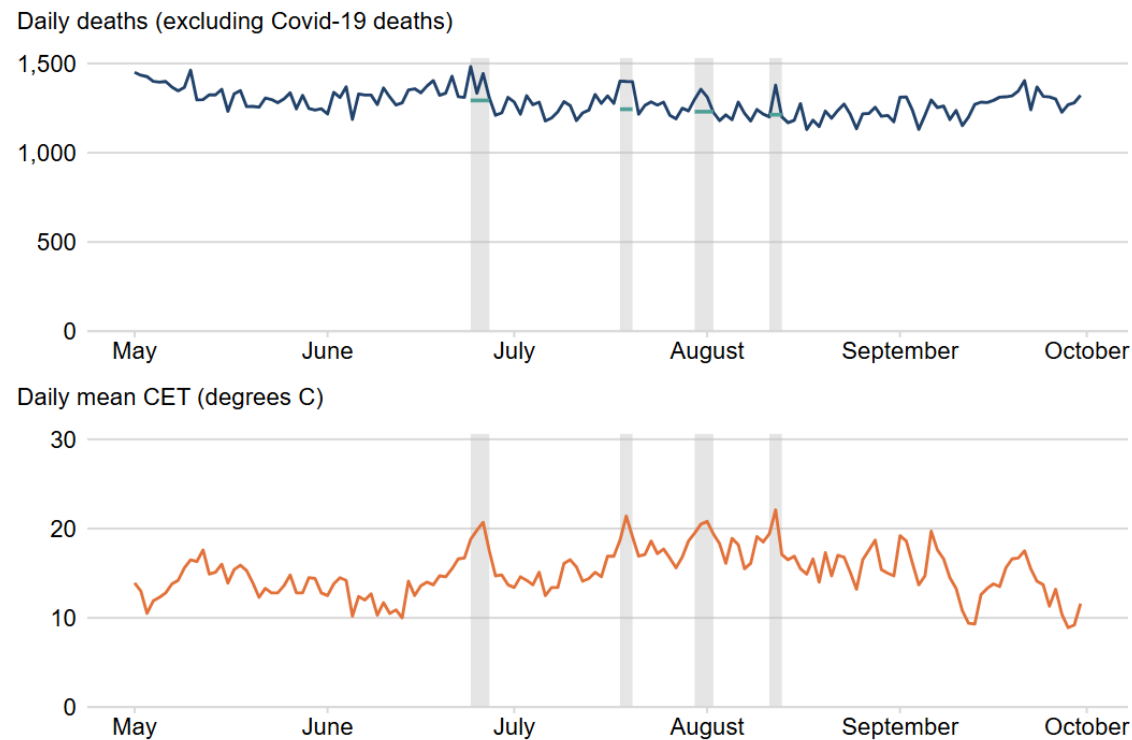
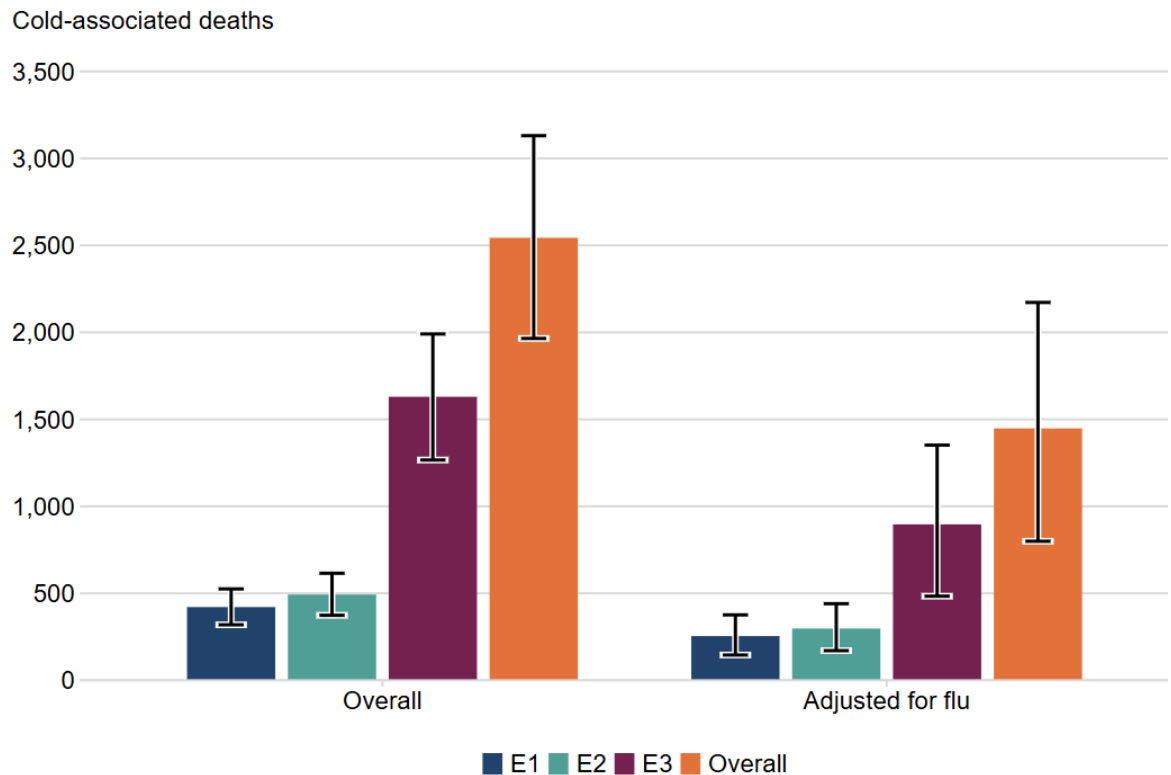


Figure 2. Cold-associated deaths by cold episode, England, winter 2024 to 2025

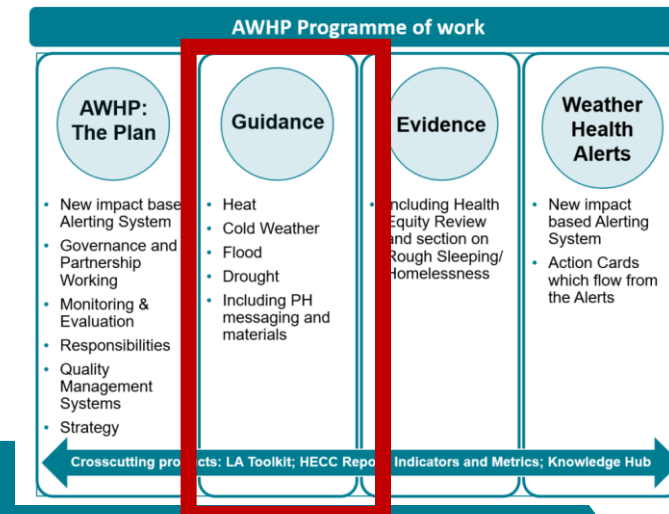


References: [Heat mortality monitoring report, England: 2024](#) and [Cold mortality monitoring report: winter 2024 to 2025](#)



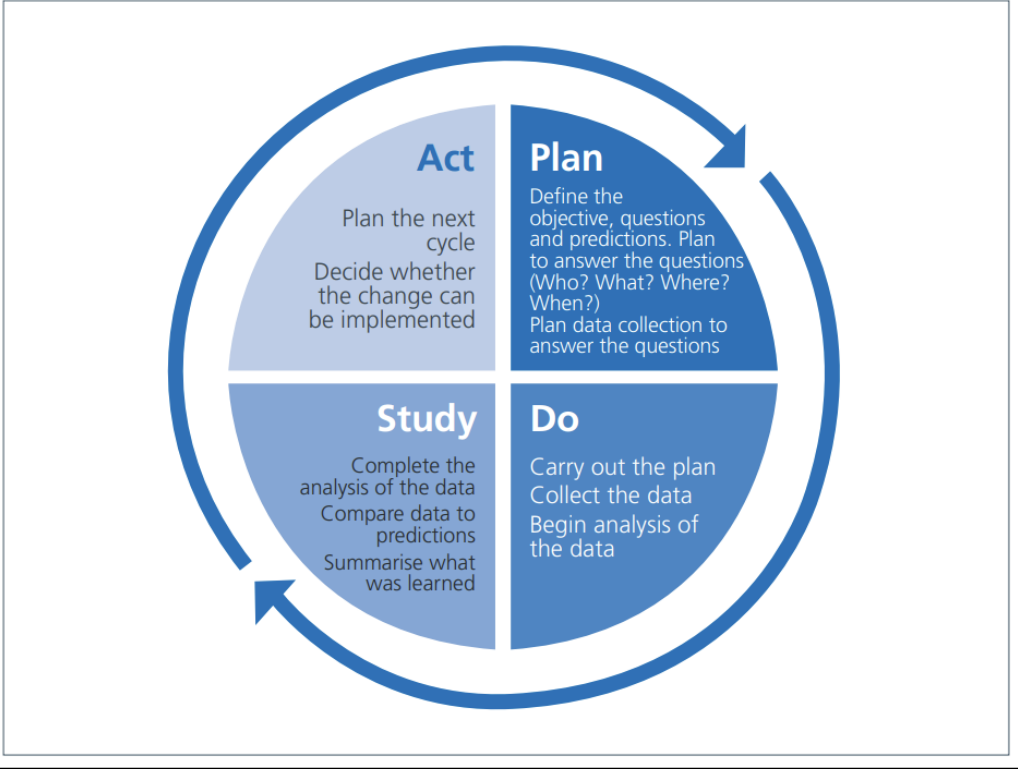
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Guidance



Planning and Guidance

Figure 2: PDSA cycle





Heat-Health Alert summary action card for services delivering care to people in their homes

This is a summary of the suggested actions for managers in this setting at each alert level. Check the [Heat-Health Alert action card for health and social care providers](#) for more detail including what to do before summer, and adapt actions for your service as appropriate.

Summary actions for a yellow alert

- Conduct a local risk assessment for hot weather in your area and your organisation's response to it, consulting the Heat-Health Alert [guidance](#) and [full action card](#)
- Confirm that staff are aware of business continuity and hot weather plans and have received the [Heat-Health Alert](#). Share them with staff if they have not received them
- Share and explain the importance of [Beat the heat](#) messages to clients, staff and commissioners, including raising awareness of heat-illness signs and prevention
- Ensure staff advise clients on how to keep cool (for example, by closing windows when it is hottest and opening windows when it is cooler outside, such as at night)
- Give staff access to a thermometer. Check they know how to record and escalate concerns
- Ensure staff are making home checks (room temperature, medication storage, food and water supplies) when visiting clients. Add these to your work management system
- Ensure staff actively monitor high-risk individuals during hot weather episodes, and check these individuals have visitor or phone-call arrangements in place
- Assess staffing levels, recognising possible increased client needs in hot weather
- Encourage and enable staff to carry water and stay hydrated and to report concerns about their own health promptly

Summary actions for an amber alert

- Continue yellow alert actions
- Follow local business continuity and/or hot weather plans
- Ensure that staff monitor the temperature of at-risk individuals and their environment
- Advise staff and clients to raise concerns promptly, as heat illnesses can worsen fast
- Increase volume and frequency of [Beat the heat](#) advice to staff and clients

Summary actions for a red alert

- Continue amber alert actions
- Follow all local emergency response plans and continue to monitor the current situation by checking the weather alerts or local news
- Actively monitor all clients during hot weather episodes and monitor compliance with actions to keep living areas as cool as possible and cool rooms or areas below 26°C



Cold-Health Alert summary action card for providers: hospitals and healthcare settings in the community

This is a summary of the suggested actions for each Cold-Health Alert level. Check the [Cold-Health Alert action card for providers](#) for more detail, including the required actions for winter preparedness, and adapt actions to your service as appropriate.

Summary actions for Yellow Alert

- Confirm that staff are aware of contingency plans and received the Cold-Health Alert
- Use the Cold-Health Alert impact matrix to inform the local risk assessment for, and response to, cold weather
- Consider how to make best use of available capacity to prepare for surges in demand
- Monitor temperatures inside buildings especially where people spend most time and aim to keep to 18°C (for example by keeping windows and doors closed to reduce draughts)
- Communicate messages to the people using your services, especially to vulnerable groups and underserved populations, to help them reduce health risks from cold
- Ensure that high-risk individuals are actively monitored during cold weather episodes, and those most vulnerable have visitor or phone call arrangements in place
- Ensure that staff are prompted to signpost vulnerable people to other sources of support (for example for energy efficiency measures, benefits or related advice)
- Activate road or pavement gritting on your premises to allow access to critical services and pedestrian hotspots, if ice or snow occur

Summary actions for Amber Alert

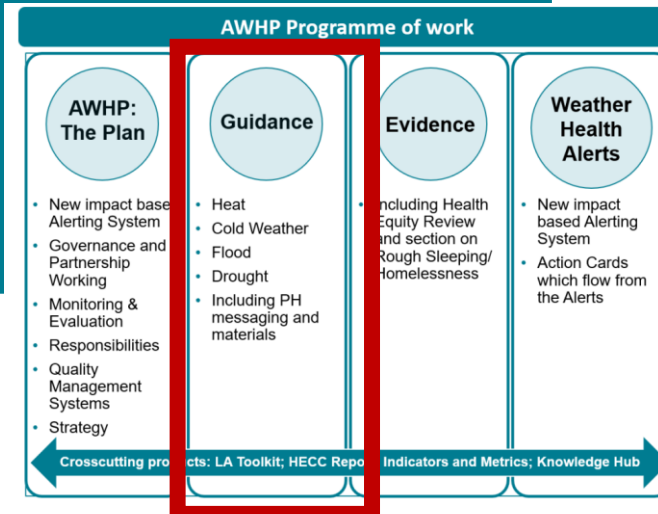
- Continue Yellow Alert Actions
- Activate local business continuity and/or cold weather plans
- Increase the volume and frequency of advice to health and social care workers on ways of identifying and protecting those at risk from cold weather
- Support staff to determine how and where to prioritise travel, especially if ice or snow occur

Summary actions for Red Alert

- Continue Amber Alert Actions
- Follow all local emergency response plans and feed into local (and, where appropriate, national) coordination and response

Reference 1: [NHS England and NHS Improvement - Plan, Do, Study, Act \(PDSA\) cycles and the model for improvement](#)
Reference 2: [Heat summary action card - home care](#)
Reference 3: [Cold-Health Alert summary action card: hospitals](#)

AWHP Guidance



GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Health and social care](#) > [Public health](#) > [Health protection](#) > [Emergency response](#)

Guidance

Adverse Weather and Health Plan

The Adverse Weather and Health Plan aims to protect individuals and communities from the health effects of adverse weather and to build community resilience.

From: [UK Health Security Agency](#)
Published 27 April 2023
Last updated 20 March 2025 — [See all updates](#)

Get emails about this page

Applies to England

Further resources

[AWHP: equity review and impact assessment 2024](#)

[AWHP: heat advice](#)

[AWHP: cold weather advice](#)

[Weather-Health Alerting System](#)

[Flooding: health guidance and advice](#)

[Public health impact of drought: advice for the public](#)

[Stay well this winter leaflet 2024](#)

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adverse-weather-and-health-plan>

Centre for Climate and Health Security page

GOV.UK

Home > Organisations

CCHS page structure

Centre for Climate and Health Security

Part of [UK Health Security Agency](#)

Featured

13 November 2025 — Research and analysis
[Climate change and mental health report](#)

The climate change and mental health thematic assessment report synthesises the evidence base relating to climate change and mental health.

24 September 2025 — Collection
[Climate-related hazards](#)

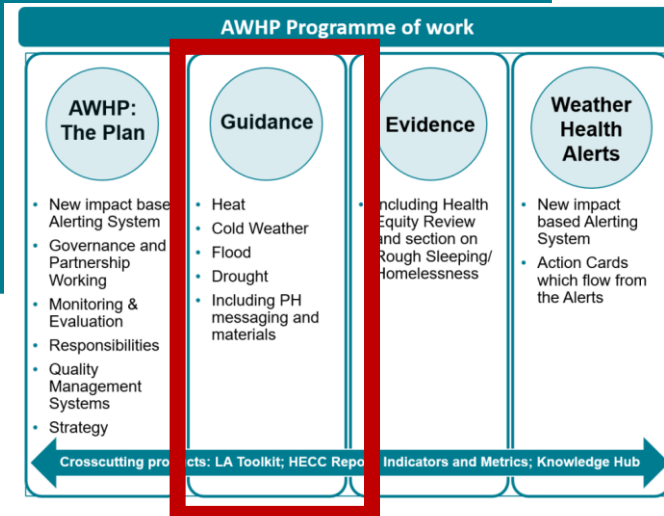
Discover more about heat, cold weather, flooding and other weather-related hazards such as droughts, storms and wildfires. These pages

12 November 2025 — Collection
[Climate health impacts](#)

Discover more about vector borne disease, antimicrobial resistant infections, mental health, co-morbidities and other health impacts

7 August 2025 — Collection
[Environmental exposures](#)

Discover more about airborne allergens, air quality, water quality and other environmental exposures such as chemicals and radiation.

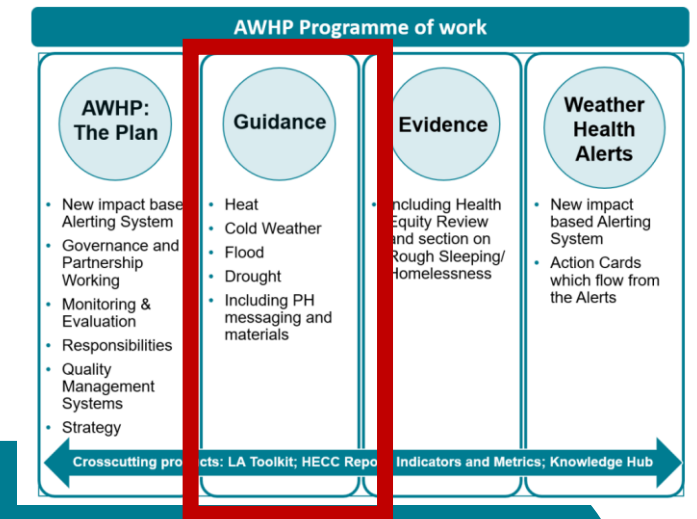


- Dedicated go-to resource now brings all UKHSA climate and health information into one place.
- Trusted, scientifically robust climate-health information. Topics include:
 - Heat, cold, mental health, vector borne disease (and more..!)
- Provides actionable tools for risk assessment, adaptation planning, and public health protection.
- Helping professionals stay up-to-date with emerging climate-health threats and evolving evidence: [Centre for Climate and Health Security - GOV.UK](#)



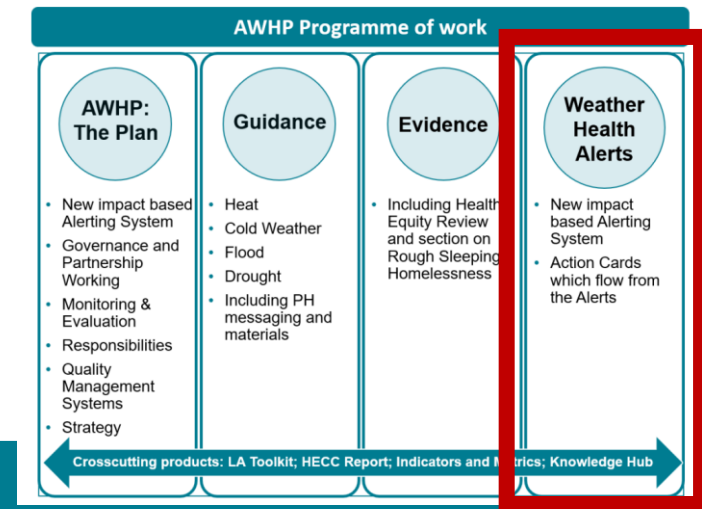
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Guidance Appendices



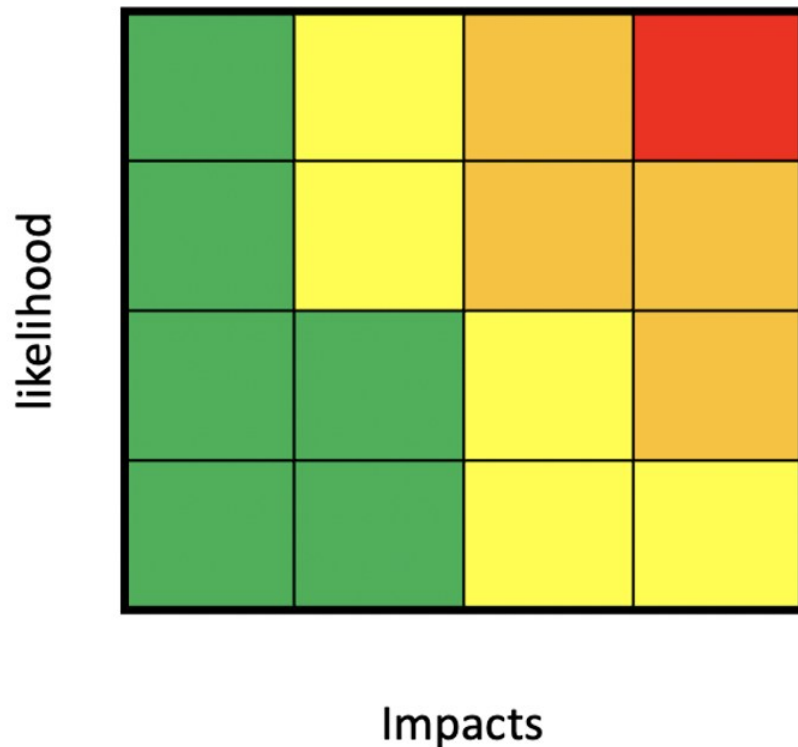
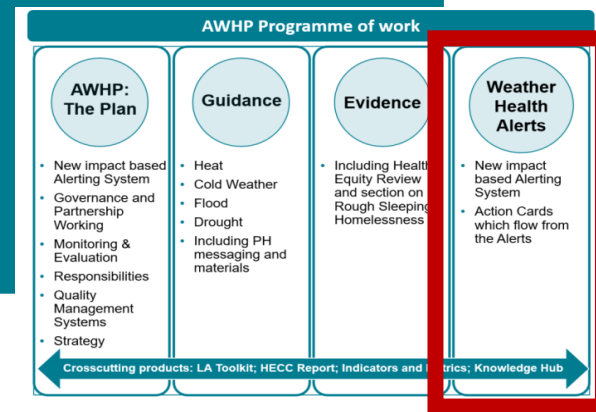


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The Weather-Health Alerting System

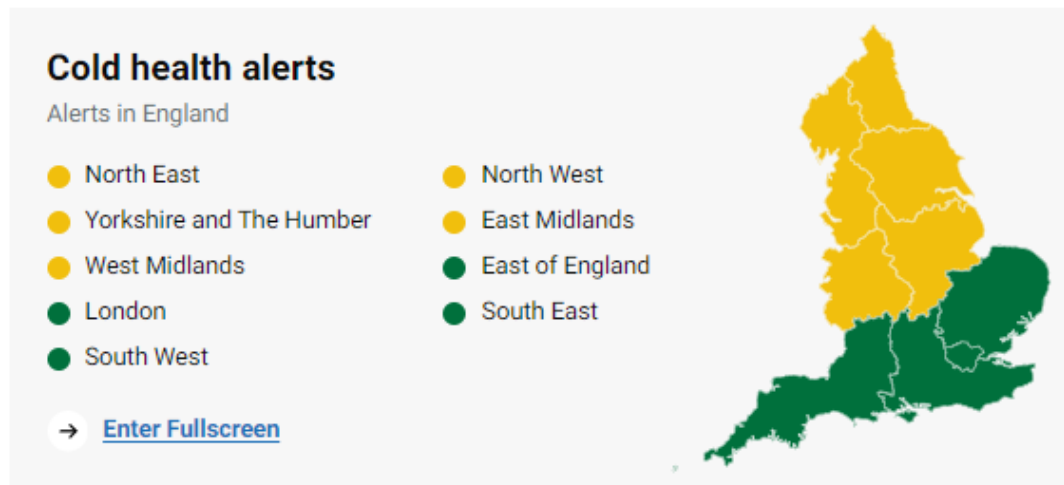
Weather-Health Alerting System



- Heat-health alert (HHA) operates from 1 June to 30 September and the cold-health alert (CHA) operates from 1 November to 30 March.
- Improved flexibility within the alerts to provide information on expected impacts as a result of the weather conditions
- Aligned with Met Office NSWWS Extreme Heat Warnings
- User guide available at: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#)

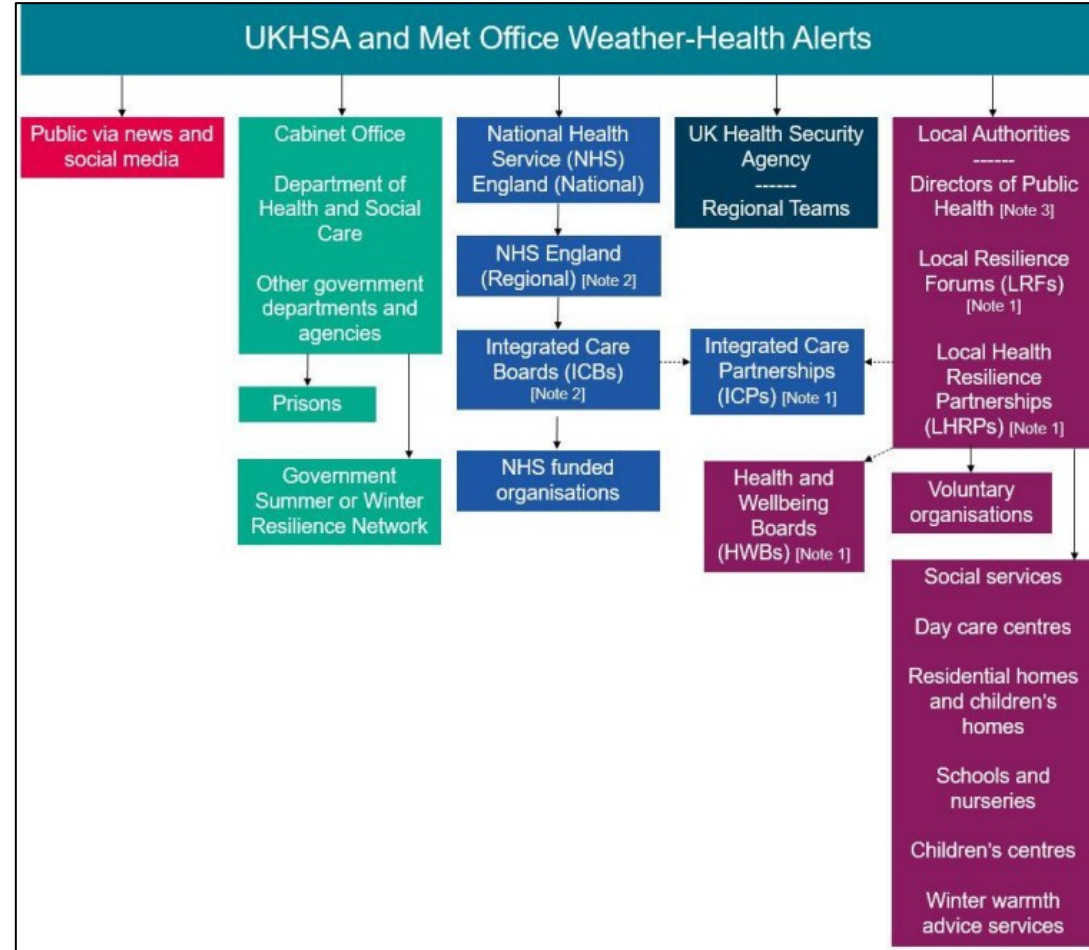
Weather-Health Alerting System Dashboard

Weather and climate risks



- Dedicated dashboard is available on the [UKHSA data dashboard](#)
- Provide national and regional situational awareness on current alerting status
- Links to additional information, advice, guidance and action cards

Alerts cascade





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AWHP equity review and impact assessment

AWHP equity review and impact assessment



- Certain groups face higher health risks from adverse weather
- Evidence shows major inequalities in how people access, understand, and act on weather-health information
- The AWHP partially addresses these inequalities, but further work is recommended
- The Equity Review found no evidence that suggests that the AWHP implementation has or will exacerbate underlying inequities significantly

Reference: [Adverse weather and health plan equity review and impact assessment 2024](#)



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Self-assessment Quiz 2025

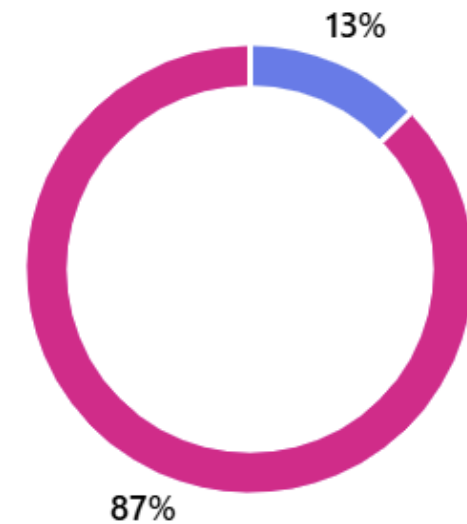
Question 1

1. Regarding the Adverse Weather Health Plan (AWHP), the Heatwave Plan for England (HWP) and the Cold Weather Plan for England (CWP) (10 points)

[More details](#)

87% of respondents answered this question correctly.

- Although the AWHP was first published in April 2023, the HWP and CWP remain active as appendix plans 7
- The AWHP fully replaced the HWP and CWP in 2023 48 ✓



Question 2

2. The AHP only applies to the health and care system in England (10 points)

[More details](#)

53% of respondents answered this question correctly.

- True 29 ✓
- False 26



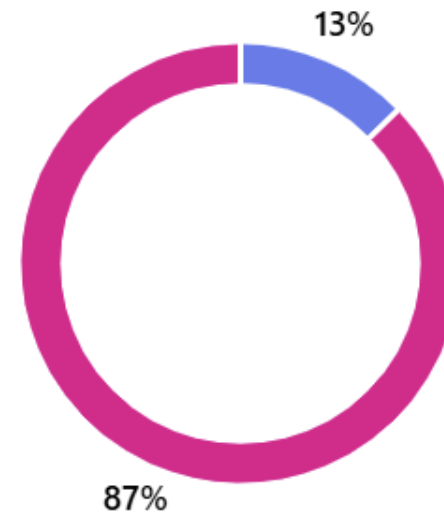
Question 3

3. The AWHP has an only goal to prevent mortality due to adverse weather events. This affirmation is: (10 points)

[More details](#)

87% of respondents answered this question correctly.

● True	7
● False	48 ✓



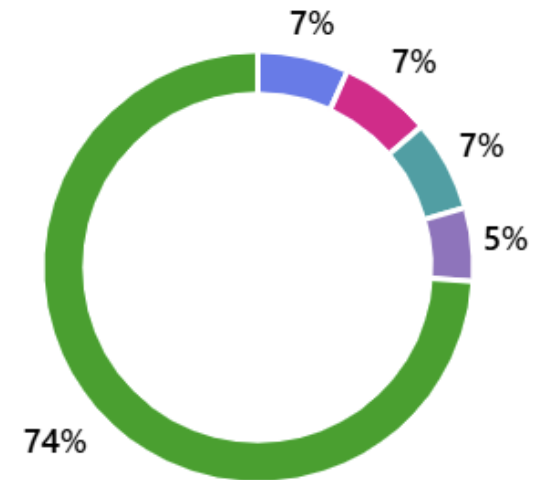
Question 4

4. Which of the following are the key components of the AWHP Programme of work? (10 points)

[More details](#)

87% of respondents answered this question correctly.

● The Plan	5
● Guidance	5
● Weather-Health Alerting System	5
● Evidence	4
● All of the above	54 ✓



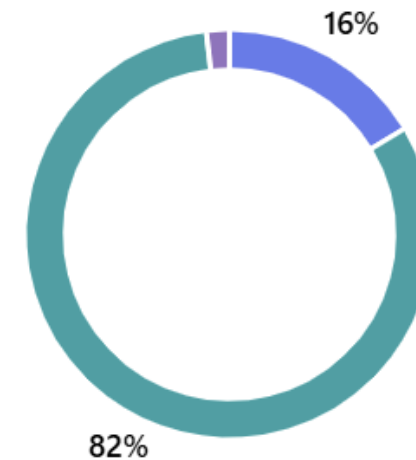
Question 8

8. The [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) portal will have actions cards for the following hazards in April 2025: (10 points)

[More details](#)

82% of respondents answered this question correctly.

● Heat and Cold	9
● Only Heat	0
● Heat, Cold and Flooding	45 ✓
● Only Cold	1



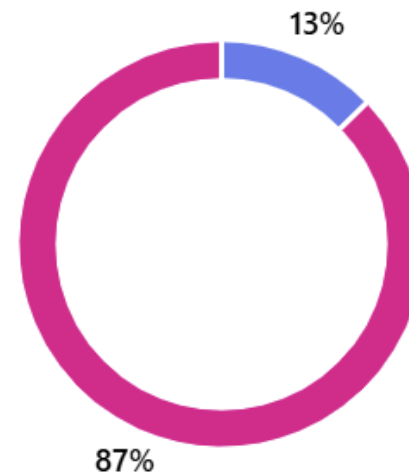
Question 11

11. The Weather-Health Alerting System only considers temperature thresholds for issuing alerts. (10 points)

[More details](#)

87% of respondents answered this question correctly.

● True 7
● False 48 ✓



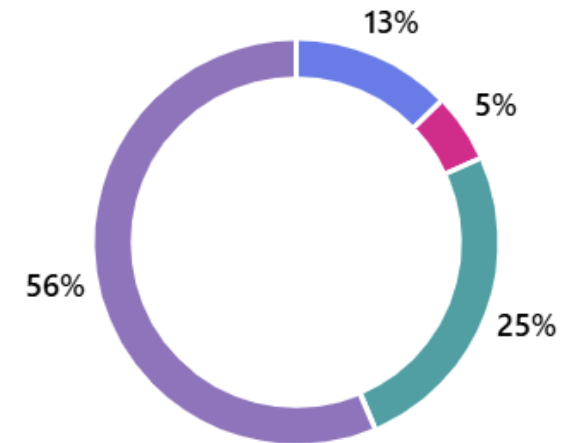
Question 13

13. Regarding the AWHP 2025/26 plan, which of the following options is incorrect (10 points)

[More details](#)

56% of respondents answered this question correctly.

- The AWHP objectives were updated for 2025/26 7
- The activity list highlights how the key action areas to be taken forward 3
- The monitoring framework considers the inclusion of the activity list and 2030 Agenda indicators (SDG... 14
- The delivery groups remained the same, with 7 delivery groups in total 31 ✓



Question 14

14. The AWHP 2024/25 plan has a total of 42 objectives. This affirmation is: (10 points)

[More details](#)

51% of respondents answered this question correctly.

● True	27
● False	28 ✓



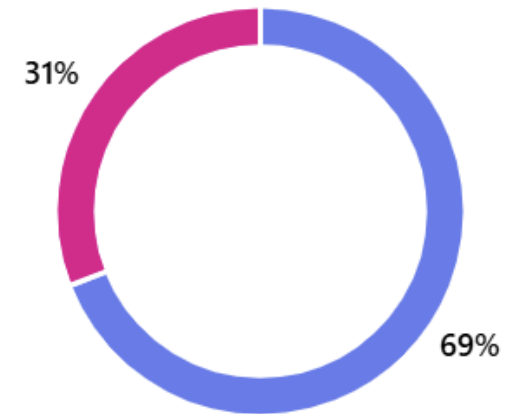
Question 15

15. The AWHP Equity Review found no evidence that suggests that the AWHP implementation has or will exacerbate underlying inequities significantly. This affirmation is: (10 points)

[More details](#)

69% of respondents answered this question correctly.

● True	38 ✓
● False	17





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Self-assessment Quiz 2026

Click here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/TAvk5eUpFw>

AWHP Feedback form

Click here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Y3PMhVbdPx>

Aim and Learning outcomes

Aim - To confirm that you have a basic knowledge of the AWHP

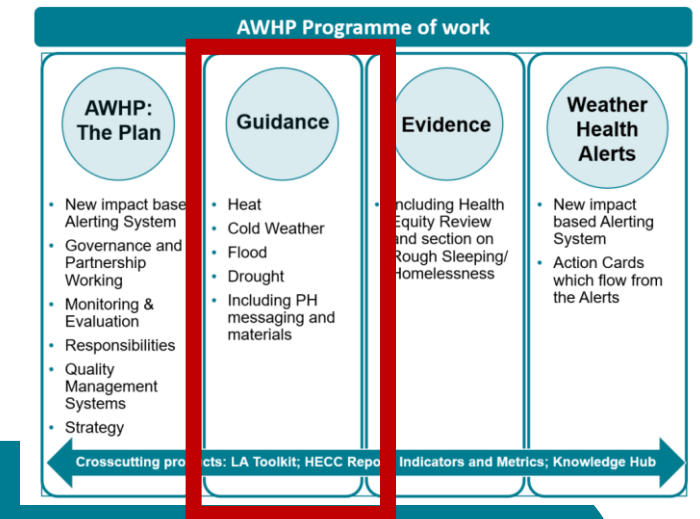
Learning outcomes - By the end of the session, you will be able to:

- Outline the four key components of the AWHP
- Identify the weather hazards covered by the AWHP
- Locate the current guidance in the gov.uk website



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Guidance Appendices



Hot weather and health resources

Hot weather and health collection: [guidance and advice](#)

[Local Authority Risk and Adaptation Toolkit: Heat Edition](#)

General guidance

- Hot Weather and Health Guidance for the Public: [Beat the Heat](#) (Guidance, home checklist and poster)
- Also available in [العربية](#); [বাংলা](#); [Español](#); [ଝିଝିଧିନ](#); [Italiano](#); [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ](#); [Polski](#); [Português](#); [Română](#) ; [Українська](#); [اردو](#)

Area-specific guidance - Hot weather and health: [supporting vulnerable people](#)

- Hot Weather and Health Guidance for [Healthcare Professionals](#)
- Hot Weather and Health Guidance for [Care Home Managers and Social Care Staff](#)
- Hot Weather and Health Guidance for [Looking after children and early years settings](#)
- Hot Weather and Health Guidance for [Supporting people homeless and sleeping rough](#)
- Hot Weather and Health Guidance for [Organisers of Mass Gatherings](#)

Heat-Health Alert [action cards](#)

- [Commissioner and local authorities](#)
- [Health and social care Providers](#)
- [Voluntary and community sector organisations](#)
- [National Government](#)

For downloadable summary posters, go to:

- Action card for [commissioners](#)
- Action card for [voluntary and community sector](#)
- Action card for [care homes and other residential settings](#)
- Action card for [services delivering care to people in their homes](#)
- Action card for [hospitals and other healthcare settings](#)

Cold weather and Health resources

Cold weather and health collection: [guidance and advice](#)

General guidance

- Cold Weather and Health Guidance for the Public: [Keep warm and well](#) (Guidance, home checklist and poster)
- Also available in [العربية](#); [বাংলা](#); [Español](#); [ગોજિયન](#); [Italiano](#); [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ](#); [Polski](#); [Português](#); [Română](#); [Українська](#); [اردو](#)

Area-specific guidance

- [Supporting vulnerable people before and during cold weather: healthcare professionals](#)
- [Supporting vulnerable people before and during cold weather: for adult social care managers](#)
- [Supporting vulnerable people before and during cold weather: people homeless and sleeping rough](#)
- [Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during cold weather: teachers and other educational professionals](#)

Cold-Health Alert [action cards](#)

- [Commissioner and local authorities](#)
- [Health and social care Providers](#)
- [Voluntary and community sector organisations](#)

Cold-Health Alert Warm spaces in England toolkit

- [Warm spaces in England: an evidence review and toolkit for local organisations](#)

Capacity building

- [E-module on cold homes and health for frontline practitioner - Helping People Living in Cold Homes](#)

For downloadable [summary posters](#), go to:

- Action card for [commissioners](#)
- Action card for [voluntary and community sector](#)
- Action card for [care homes and other residential settings](#)
- Action card for [services delivering care to people in their homes](#)
- Action card for [hospitals and other healthcare settings](#)

Flooding and Health guidance

1. Public advice on Flooding and Health

- Health impacts of flooding
- Cleaning your home safely

Also available in [العربية](#); [বাংলা](#); [Español](#); [જોર્જિયન](#); [Italiano](#); [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ](#); [Polski](#); [Português](#); [Română](#); [Українська](#); [اردو](#)

2. Flooding and Health: a guide for the assessment and management of public health impacts for frontline responders

3. **Flood-Health action cards to be published on the 27th March 2025 at: [Flooding: health guidance and advice - GOV.UK](#)**

Drought and Health guidance

Public health impact of drought: advice for the public

- Stay informed
 - Maintain hygiene during a drought period
 - Stay hydrated
 - Look after your mental health
 - Reduce respiratory problems
 - Use water efficiently
-
- Also available in [العربية](#); [বাংলা](#); [Español](#); [ગુજરાતી](#); [Italiano](#); [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ](#); [Polski](#); [Português](#); [Română](#); [Українська](#); [اردو](#)