



Committee and Date

Cabinet  
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Item

Public

## Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2021/22

**Responsible Officer:**

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### 1. Synopsis

The Adult Social Care (ASC) Winter Plan describes how ASC, Housing and Public Health teams will work with partners to support residents to stay independent and well. The plan builds on last winter's activity, showing how we will use the resources of our health and care system.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Department of Health & Social Care published its ASC Covid-19 Winter Plan 2021/22 in November. It builds on last year's ASC Winter Plan and sets out the key elements of national support available for the social care sector for winter 2021 to 2022, as well as the principal actions to take for local authorities, NHS organisations and social care providers across all settings, including those in the voluntary and community sector.
- 2.2. The Shropshire ASC Winter Plan 2021/22 uses these national actions to set out how – by working together as a health and care system - we will ensure that high-quality, safe, and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it, while we continue to protect people who need care, their carers and the social care workforce from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.
- 2.3. This Winter Plan provides updates on our activity in winter 2020/21, reflects our experiences of responding locally to the challenges we faced and describes how we are building on last year's activity to respond to this year's current and predicted challenges, e.g., levels of Covid-19 infection rates and a stretched ASC and carer workforce.
- 2.4. Over the winter months, pressures build within our local health and care system as a result of the significant rise in the number of people admitted to hospital. The increased incidence of infectious diseases and conditions such as asthma, are exacerbated during the winter months. In the run up to this winter we have experienced increased numbers of people with complex care and support needs seeking support.

- 2.5. The challenge of managing the impact of Covid-19 when the health and care system is at its busiest continues to require an effective, robust, and co-ordinated effort to ensure that the local system is able to provide high-quality care and support to meet the increased demand and complexity of needs.
- 2.6. The Winter Plan, and the accompanying Action Plan plays an important role in describing how we will respond to our local demands and challenges. It describes our close working relationship with our care and support providers and the ways we will support people in Shropshire this winter.

### **3. Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- 3.1. Consider the plans and actions detailed in the Winter Plan and Winter Action Plan to ensure that high-quality, safe and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it, and we continue to protect people who need care, their carers and the social care workforce from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

## **REPORT**

### **4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

*(NB This will include the following: Impact on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community and other Consultation)*

- 4.1. The risks and opportunities relating to the activity within the ASC Winter Plan are recorded on a number of risk registers and are regularly reviewed and updated.
  - The Corporate Risk Register
  - The Health and Care System Risk Register
  - The ASC Operational Risk Register
- 4.2. A Risk Register specific to the ASC Winter Plan is attached as Appendix 3.
- 4.3. There is no new activity, or changes to activity that requires new Equality, Social Inclusion Impact Assessments or consultation.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. The activity described in the Winter Plan will be delivered directly by our staff, through ongoing commissioned activity and through short-term commissioned activity designed to tackle the specific challenges of winter.
- 5.2. The activity is funded through core budgets, short-term funding streams and grant funding.

## 6. Climate Change Appraisal

### 6.1. Energy and fuel consumption

- i. Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing continue to deliver a significant number of appointments virtually, which reduces the need for staff or resident travel.
- ii. Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing, and commissioned activity promote the council's energy saving and Warm Home schemes through conversations with residents and support them to take advantage of these opportunities to reduce energy use.

ASC is committed to ensuring that there are energy and fuel savings in our future activities and quantifying the outcome of these.

- 6.2. **Renewable energy generation:** The decision does not include any opportunities to generate renewable energy.
- 6.3. **Carbon offsetting or mitigation:** The decision does not create any opportunities to offset or mitigate carbon emissions through measures such as tree planting or peat soil enhancement.
- 6.4. **Climate change adaptation:**

The Winter Plan confirms that ASC, Public Health and Housing is connected into the council-wide Flooding Action Plan, e.g., the locations of residential homes and where domiciliary care is being delivered have been overlaid with flood level predictions to enable us to plan, prepare for and avoid the potential impact of flooding on our vulnerable residents.

We are creating Winter Well resources focused on the top 5 things we can all do to keep well and increase our resilience to the impact of the extremes of winter weather, including –

- Vaccinations
- Infection control and testing
- Staying physically active
- Mental well-being
- Where to go to seek advice and support for a wide range of issues that could affect people more in the winter months, e.g., fuel poverty, affordable food, welfare benefits.

## **7. Background**

- 7.2. Everyone living and working in Shropshire continues to be affected in some way by Covid-19, ranging from a radical change in day-to-day life and how services are delivered, through to a direct experience of the virus.
- 7.3. Periods of self-isolation and regular testing to protect others has become the norm and there continues to be significant numbers of people in Shropshire experiencing the effects of the virus. Thanks to the high uptake of vaccination in Shropshire, the impact on personal health and our health services has reduced, but the virus is proving to have a number of impacts on our care and health system.
- 7.4. 2021 has been another tough and challenging year, and for the people who provide support and care to others it continues to be particularly difficult. Care and health teams have worked hard to protect vulnerable people, provide care, and support colleagues. At the same time, they have been affected by increased numbers of Covid cases, the impact of long Covid, juggling home schooling and caring responsibilities.
- 7.5. We have refreshed and updated our Winter Plan 2021/22 to reflect what we learnt and developed last winter. Many areas of activity, such as our Winter Support Scheme are in a stronger position as we have been able to build on what worked well, but there are areas of concern, such as care workforce fragility where we must focus our efforts across all sectors and organisations to ensure some of our most vulnerable residents are receiving the care and support that they need.
- 7.6. The health and care system could not have coped without the efforts of the Covid-support or mutual aid groups that continue to enable people to remain well and independent at home. The system also would not have coped without the thousands of unpaid and family carers who have had to dig deep into their resilience reserves during lockdown. Positive things like our resilient communities, our strong voluntary and community sector, and our dedicated workforce will help all of us maintain our wellbeing through this winter.
- 7.7. Within our care and health organisations there are many sources of advice and support to help staff look after their mental and physical health. We are encouraging staff to make use of these, as well as supporting them to receive Covid boosters and 'flu vaccinations at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.8. The activity described in this plan that many staff will be involved in, is invaluable to people staying well this winter.

## **8. Additional Information**

- 8.2. The ASC Winter Plan Action Plan brings together the key actions in the DHSC Plan and Shropshire's local actions. These are organised under the following headings –

## Preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings

### PPE

- Covid-19 and flu testing
- Covid-19 and seasonal flu vaccinations
- Infection prevention and outbreak management
- Visiting in care homes

### Collaboration across health and care services

- Preventing avoidable admissions
- Technology and digital support
- Safe discharge from NHS settings
- Social prescribing

### Supporting the people who provide care

- Unpaid carers and respite care
- Workforce wellbeing
- Workforce capacity
- Social work and other professional leadership

### Supporting the system

- Funding
- Market and provider stability
- CQC's regulatory model
- Local, regional and national oversight and support

- 8.3. Shropshire's local actions will be reviewed regularly to identify barriers and opportunities associated with their successful delivery.

## 9. Conclusions

- 9.2. The ability to manage the presence of Covid-19 in our communities and provide care and support for those who need it this winter will depend on collaborative working within Shropshire's health and care system. ASC will work with its partners so that we are best prepared to face this winter's challenges, including:

- an increasingly stretched adult social care workforce, with recruitment continuing to be difficult in many places
- the infection risk posed by the possibility of a new COVID-19 variant of concern, as well as other respiratory viruses

- 9.3. Shropshire's ASC Winter Plan 2021/2022 and accompanying Action Plan covers a wide range of activity designed to ensure that people are supported to be healthy, independent and safe, that our care settings provide excellent care for the people they support, and that our staff remain well and resilient.

- 9.4. We are providing a range of support, services and activity for our staff to support their mental and physical health and wellbeing. These include online wellbeing assessments, counselling, Winter Wellness resources, bereavement support, Mental Health First Aiders and support to receive Covid and flu vaccinations.
- 9.5. Effective partnership working within our health and care system, as we move towards integration, will benefit the people looking to us for care and support. Close working and good communication is particularly important to ensure people leaving hospital have the support to recover at home and avoid needing to go back to hospital.
- 9.6. Much of this activity involves Shropshire's voluntary and community organisations, community groups, volunteers, and unpaid carers. Their knowledge, skills and experience is a vital element of our health and care system, and the importance of their continued support for our communities should not be underestimated. We are sincerely grateful to our voluntary organisations, community groups and everyone who gives their time and energy to support others.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

DHSC – Adult Social Care: Covid-19 winter plan 2021 to 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-coronavirus-covid-19-winter-plan-2021-to-2022/adult-social-care-covid-19-winter-plan-2021-to-2022>

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Cllr Simon Jones, Cabinet Member, ASC and Public Health

**Local Member**

All

**Appendices**

1. Appendix A - ASC Winter Plan 2021/2022
2. Appendix B - ASC Winter Plan Action Plan 2021/2022
3. Appendix C - ASC Winter Plan 2021/2022 Risk Register

