

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AIMS**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is building on last year’s adult social care winter plan, which was independently reviewed by the DHSC Stakeholder Group earlier in the year. as part of ongoing efforts to constantly review and adapt its response to the pandemic.

The aim of the plan this year's [adult-social-care-covid-19-winter-plan](#) is to ensure that high-quality, safe, and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it, while continuing to protect people who need care, their carers and the social care workforce from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

This year’s plan sets out key elements of national support available for the social care sector for winter 2021 to 2022, as well as the principal actions for local authorities, NHS organisations and social care providers to take across all settings, including those in the voluntary and community sector.

A few examples of actions to be completed by Local Authorities are :

- Ensure that carers’ assessments are reviewed and updated to reflect any additional needs of both carers and those in need of social care
- Develop and maintain links with professionals across the health and care system to ensure joined-up services
- Review any systemic safeguarding concerns that have arisen during the pandemic period, and ensure actions are in place to respond to them, enabling readiness for any increased pressures over the winter period
- Continue to review and update contingency plans for managing service interruptions, including those that arise if a provider is unable to carry on because of business failure
- Work with all relevant partners, including UK Home Care Association (UKHSA) and local health protection boards, to control local outbreaks in line with the contain framework.
- Continue to work to understand consumer demand and need, and where there are potential stresses in the market

**THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE**

We are developing a robust COVID19 Winter Action Plan for 21/22. Key leads have been assigned to continue to engage and collaborate with partners to align existing winter plans and activity , understand our current position and identify what further activity is required to meet the DHSC plan in full.

These actions have been collated into the following four themes:

<p><b>Theme 1:</b> Preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings <b>Lead: Jonathan Gribbin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Personal protective equipment (PPE)</li> <li>→ COVID-19 and Flu testing</li> <li>→ COVID19 and seasonal flu vaccines</li> <li>→ Infection prevention and outbreak management</li> <li>→ Visiting in care homes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theme 2:</b> Collaboration across health and care services <b>Lead: Sue Batty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Preventing avoidable admissions</li> <li>→ Technology and digital support</li> <li>→ Safe discharge from NHS settings</li> <li>→ Social Prescribing</li> <li>→ End of life care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme 3:</b> Supporting people who provide care <b>Lead: Ainsley Macdonnell</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Unpaid Carers and respite care</li> <li>→ Supporting the workforce</li> <li>→ Workforce wellbeing</li> <li>→ Workforce Capacity</li> <li>→ Social work and other professional leadership</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theme 4:</b> Supporting the system <b>Lead: Kashif Ahmed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Funding</li> <li>→ Market and provider sustainability</li> <li>→ CQC regulatory model</li> <li>→ Local, regional and national oversight and support</li> </ul>

**GOVERNANCE**

