



**To: Local Authority Chief Executives  
Local Authority Directors of Public Health  
Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards  
NHS England Regional Directors  
Clinical Leads of Clinical Commissioning Groups**

**CC:** Accountable Officers of CCGs, LA Emergency Planning Officers, NHS England Heads of EPRR, NHS Trust and Foundation Trust CEs, NHS Trust and Foundation Trust Medical Directors, NHS Trust and Foundation Trust Nursing Directors, GPs, Directors of Housing and Planning, Directors of Adult Social Services, Directors of Children Social Services, DCLG Resilience and Emergencies Division and Local Resilience Forums, PHE Region and Centre Directors, Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Healthwatch England CE, NHS Improvement CE, Care Quality Commission CE, Professional Bodies (RCGP, RCP, RPSGB, RCN, CPHVA, FPH), Carers UK

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**Re: Heatwave plan for England**

As we approach summer, this letter is intended to draw your attention to the Heatwave plan for England (background annexe). No changes have been made to the plan this year which will remain in place until further notice.

Three new resources have been developed:

- 'Beat the Heat' poster: an infographic for the public with key advice for staying safe in hot weather
- 'Beat the Heat' supporting leaflet: detailed information for the public about how to stay safe in hot weather
- 'Beat the Heat: keep cool at home – checklist': a checklist to help people identify situations where overheating in the home may cause harm to health, the actions to take, and how to access further help and support. This resource is aimed at members of the public as well as frontline workers (for example, health and social care staff)

These documents are available alongside the Heatwave Plan for England and other supporting material at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england).

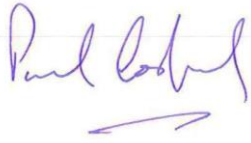
## Recommended next steps

The plan is a good practice guide and the actions denoted within it are illustrative. There are five key messages we recommend to all local areas:

1. All local organisations should consider this document and satisfy themselves that the suggested actions and heat-health watch alerts are understood across the system, and that **local plans are adapted as appropriate** to the local context. Local health resilience partnerships (LHRPs) may wish to use the plan to review their own heatwave plans
2. NHS, social care and local authority commissioners, together with local resilience forums (LRFs) and LHRPs, should satisfy themselves that the distribution of **heat-health watch alerts will reach those that need to take action**
3. NHS, social care and local authority commissioners should satisfy themselves that **providers and stakeholders take appropriate action** according to the heat-health watch level in place and their professional judgements, noting the **dates of Ramadan** Tuesday 6 June to Wednesday 6 July 2016 (approximately) when many Muslims will be fasting during daylight hours
4. Opportunities should be taken for closer partnership working with the **voluntary, community and private sectors** to help reduce vulnerability and to support the planning and response to heatwaves. This should include organisations with remits that are not specifically related to health and social care, since their engagement can help to communicate messages, provide additional resources, and identify and engage vulnerable people, who may not be already linked into statutory services
5. Long-term planning and commissioning to reduce heat-related harm, in view of the evidence on climate change is considered **core business by health and wellbeing boards** and included in joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies where appropriate. This should include a consideration of the risk to health from indoor overheating and urban heat islands

We hope that you will discuss the suite of documents that make up the Heatwave plan with those organisations and teams that need to take action, in order to protect the health of the population from exposure to severe heat.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Cosford  
Director of Health Protection and Medical Director, Public Health England



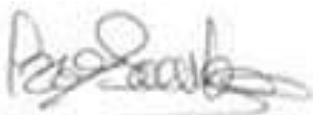
Dr Felicity Harvey  
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Councillor Izzi Seccombe  
Chair of Community Wellbeing Board, Local Government Association

## **Annexe – Background to the Heatwave plan for England**

The objective of the Heatwave plan for England is to protect the population from heat-related harm to health. It recommends a series of steps, to be taken throughout the year by:

- the NHS, local authorities, social care, and other public agencies
- professionals working with people at risk
- individuals, community and voluntary sector

The plan is an important component of long term and emergency planning, which will become increasingly relevant in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

### **Heat-health watch alerts**

The Met Office will issue heatwave alerts from 1 June 2016 to 15 September 2016. There are five levels:

- level 0 (long-term planning, all year)
- level 1 (heatwave and summer preparedness, 1 June to 15 September)
- level 2 (heatwave is forecast – alert and readiness)
- level 3 (heatwave action)
- level 4 (major incident – emergency response, declared by central government)

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

### **Related guidance**

Further heatwave advice for primary care is available from the **Royal College of General Practitioners** at [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/clinical-resources/adverse-weather.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/clinical-resources/adverse-weather.aspx).

Further heatwave advice for the public is available from NHS Choices at [www.nhs.uk/heatwave.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/heatwave.aspx)