

## Storm Arwen Action update – Adult Care

There were three actions allocated under Section 4.4.8 of the review to Northumberland County Council Adult Care. An update to all three is provided below, although to note the Director of Public Health lead on the actions in relation to (a) and (b).

**(a) all the Council’s personal data sets be reviewed to ensure that assistance in emergency situations can be properly targeted;**

**(b) consideration also be given to how best personal data can be shared both within the Council and with partner organisations, and**

The combined update from the public health lead for this area of work in relation to these two actions is as follows...

*The ability to share appropriate, personal data securely in an emergency situation is a key priority for Northumberland County Council. Relevant datasets including vulnerable adults and children (developed by service leads) have been agreed and will be stored in a secure environment (under the agreement of a Data Protection Impact Assessment) enabling those who require access in an emergency situation to do so.*

*External partners and internal departments who may require access to personal data have been identified by the data working group under the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response workstream. Cryptshare will be used to supply any agreed personal data with external organisations.*

*Scenario testing for the preparation of rotated power disconnections will take place between 15th - 22nd December 2022 using the relevant datasets. Once complete, this should provide additional confidence in the system.*

*There has been a delay to this process due to resources for EPPR data planning being drawn from other service areas whilst trying to fit this in around core business. Gaining access to certain datasets has also resulted in delays.*

**(c) the Council’s contracts with care homes and similar providers must include a condition that an approved emergency contingency plan be in place to ensure a continuing high level of care during future emergency incidents.**

*A number of homes were affected by storm Arwen and the impact was most significant on a home in Choppington which was without power for a significant period of time, and reliant on a generator.*

*Since the storm all care homes have been asked to review and update their business continuity plans to specifically address how they would respond to power outages. All were encouraged to source their own generators or identify where they could obtain them in an emergency. This has not been straightforward for them all to do due to the location of the homes, and where they have not been able to easily source a generator, homes have made alternative arrangements including evacuation in the worst-case scenario. Those homes have identified locations where residents could be moved to on a temporary basis if necessary.*

*There is only one home that has submitted a plan that officers do not consider is acceptable. The adult care commissioning team is continuing to work with that provider in order to strengthen their contingency plans and bring them up to an acceptable standard.*