
Report To: Health and Social Care Committee **Date:** 11 October 2018

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Inverclyde Health and Social Care
Partnership (HSCP) **Report No:** SW/43/2018/AS

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Subject: Transport Resilience - Adverse Weather

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Social Care Committee members with an update in relation to the key learning from the adverse weather conditions from last winter which includes resilience across HSCP services relating to 4x4 transport.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 From 28th February until 1st March 2018 saw the longest period of cold temperatures since December 2010. Inverclyde did not escape this weather and for a number of days record snowfall was recorded across the Local Authority area.
- 2.2 Both Council and HSCP services were affected by the snowfall and staff showed their determination to continue to look after the most vulnerable members of our community during this period. The individual effort made by staff to keep visiting people at home during this period of heavy snowfall was impressive.
- 2.3 One of the most significant areas of learning from this period was our inability to secure adequate 4x4 capacity. Access to 4x4 vehicles was limited to one vehicle operated by Roads and one vehicle operated by the Coastguard and Maritime Agency. Access to national 4x4 vehicles was patchy and subject to national priorities. The overriding view of managers across services was that the HSCP needed to be less reliant on others to access 4x4 capacity.
- 2.4 This report highlights the need for the HSCP to actively review its current vehicle stock and where appropriate replace some vehicles with cars capable of delivering 4x4 capability. This would ensure the HSCP is less reliant on 4x4 external support which is always stretched during periods of adverse weather.

This pragmatic approach to building 4x4 capacity has already commenced with vehicles currently leased by the NHS District Nursing team based at Greenock Health Centre. The service will shortly have access to a number of new leased vehicles with 4x4 capability. These vehicles have been leased with the available budget.

The HSCP are also aware of the Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Procurement Support Scheme and will link with the appropriate Council officers when making decisions regarding the replacement of current stock to ultra-low emission vehicles.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Committee is asked to approve a review of current vehicle stock across the HSCP with a view to securing an appropriate number of vehicles with 4x4 capability within the available budget.
- 3.2 The Health and Social Care Committee is asked to note the efforts made by staff to continue to provide services across Inverclyde during the adverse weather.

Louise Long
Corporate Director (Chief Officer)
Inverclyde HSCP

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Adverse Weather

From 28th February until 1st March 2018 saw the longest period of cold temperatures since December 2010. Inverclyde did not escape this weather and for a number of days record snowfall was recorded across the Local Authority area.

Both Council and HSCP services were affected by the snowfall and staff showed their determination to continue to look after the most vulnerable members of our community during this period. The individual effort made by staff to keep visiting people at home during this period of heavy snowfall was impressive.

One of the most significant areas of learning from this period was our inability to secure adequate 4x4 capacity. Access to 4x4 vehicles was limited to one vehicle operated by Roads and one vehicle operated by the Coastguard and Maritime Agency. Access to national 4x4 vehicles was patchy and subject to national priorities. The overriding view of managers across services was that the HSCP needed to be less reliant on others to access 4x4 capacity.

Both NHS and Council services were affected during the periods of heavy snowfall. Our care at home staff struggled to access parts of Inverclyde due to the sheer amount of snow that accumulated on the roads across the area. Many staff could not get their own vehicles to many of the housing areas due to lack of 4x4 capacity. Many families and neighbours stepped in to check on older people during these days and our staff walked to many visits during this time. Day services at Hillend Centre, Fitzgerald and McPherson were all affected during this time.

4.2 Key Learning

There are a number of key areas of learning from the severe weather noted below:

- **4x4 capacity** in relation to access to vehicles capable of negotiating snowfall better than the average vehicles currently used by services.
- **Key holders'** availability to open buildings. A number of key holders live outwith Inverclyde and struggled to get to work to open buildings.
- **Fire escape** signs outside buildings being clearly visible from outside our buildings.
- **Shut down communication** ensuring all HSCP staff in buildings across Inverclyde followed the same procedure in terms of decision-making regarding closing services.

4.3 Next Steps

The issues relating to key holders, fire escapes and communication have all been addressed. The only outstanding issue across the HSCP relates to building capacity within the service in relation to access to 4x4 capacity. We have started to address this issue across the NHS leased vehicle stock and will shortly take delivery of two new leased vehicles with 4x4 capacity. This will make a significant difference in terms of giving staff an opportunity to access home visits when heavy snow falls. The next step is to complete a similar review of the Council vehicle stock and identify appropriate opportunities to replace some existing vehicles with cars fitted with 4x4 capacity.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

FINANCE

5.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs: None, this will be done within the existing budget

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

LEGAL

5.2 There are no legal implications in respect of this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES

5.3 There are no human resources implications in respect of this report at this time.

EQUALITIES

5.4 There are no equality issues within this report.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
√	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

REPOPULATION

5.5 There are no repopulation implications in respect of this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The SMT spent time after the adverse weather period understanding the key issues and learning from the unprecedented weather conditions experienced during February and March 2018. Further discussions will also take place with Finance and Transport colleagues moving forward.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.