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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Integration Joint Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>24 March 2025</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Kate Rocks Chief Officer Inverclyde Health &amp; Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>IJB/63/2025/AB</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Alan Best Head of Health &amp; Community Care Inverclyde Health &amp; Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715212</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Inverclyde HSCP's Response to Storm Eowyn 24 January 2025</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Inverclyde HSCP IJB on Inverclyde HSCP and the community response to the impact of Storm Eowyn on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and the continuing impact over the weekend period of 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- 1.3 This report highlights the preparation, prioritisation and deployment of Inverclyde HSCP services, working alongside Civil Contingencies Service, Inverclyde Council, commissioned and Community partners. The report also highlights the ongoing learning from the service response to Storm Eowyn prior, during and aftermath.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to note the contents of the report.

**Kate Rocks**  
**Chief Officer**  
**Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January Storm Eowyn hit the West Coast of Ireland and Scotland with winds in excess of 100mph. Buildings were damaged with long lasting power outages and a large number of trees (80 plus in Inverclyde) were felled during the worst effects of the storm.
- 3.2 Widespread travel disruption was experienced with a red alert issued to the community not to travel from 10am to 5pm during the 24th. The UK's Metrological Office said Storm Eowyn was probably the strongest storm to hit the United Kingdom in at least the last 10 years.
- 3.3 In preparation for the potential severity and impact of Storm Eowyn, Inverclyde HSCP met with Inverclyde Council's Resilience Team to prepare and plan for the potential impact on services. Some HSCP services were closed for the duration of the storm whilst buildings which provided critical care remained open to essential services only. Inverclyde HSCP also linked with contingency planning from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board. These meetings continued throughout the duration of the storm and over the weekend. Meetings also took place with the West of Scotland Local Resilience Partnership where the HSCP was able to link in with wider response partners such as Coast Guard, Scottish Ambulance Services, Fire Scotland, Police Scotland and Scottish Power Energy Networks.
- 3.4 In light of the serious nature of the storm and the issuing of a red alert with advice not to travel, Inverclyde HSCP closed Hector McNeil House, Day services, Princes Street House and centred service delivery from our three Health Centres and the Hillend centre. Adult Supported living and Children's services continued but with service users remaining indoors as per the red alert. Social work services continued to operate within the contingency planning model, including delivery of statutory child protection and adult protection services. Our children's houses also operated an adjusted shift pattern to minimise staff travel to/from work whilst ensuring continuity of care and support for children and young people.
- 3.5 As per Inverclyde HSCP's service continuity plans, services went to a critical support model to ensure support to vulnerable adults with community nursing, community learning disability team and care and support at home services ensuring that staffing capacity was focused on essential support delivery. This was coordinated to ensure that critical support was given and that the safety of staff who were working in the community was maintained. Mental Health Inpatient services were maintained with staff working together to support each other, prioritising the care and treatment of patients.
- 3.6 Inverclyde HSCP staff worked closely with Inverclyde Councils Corporate Communications to ensure that the public were aware of which services were operating and that we would be moving to an essential service only position during the duration of the storm. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board also put out communications advising of essential service provision and General Practices remained open for emergency care and telephone consultations.
- 3.7 Commissioned providers such as Care Homes and Supported Living were supported by Inverclyde HSCP's commissioning and contracts team in terms of implementing business continuity plans as well as onsite support during and after the storm over the weekend period.
- 3.8 Inverclyde's strong third sector and community were vital in the support given alongside HSCP services in the aftermath of the storm with the longer duration of power outages and travel disruptions.

## 4.0 CONTEXT

- 4.1 In order to capture the full impact, response and learning by Inverclyde HSCP, commissioned partners, third sector and our communities over the 24th-26th January Storm Eowyn, a sample of activity is listed in this section to advise the Integration Joint Board of HSCP activity.
- 4.2 Staff at Hillend centre where our digital technology service is based contended with a tree falling on the building. Fortunately, no-one was injured, and services were temporarily relocated with minimal damage to the building. Due to the unprecedented number of fallen trees and damaged buildings that Council services were dealing with over the weekend period, it was a number of days before the tree was removed to make the area safe. Hillend staff are grateful to colleagues from Inverclyde Council on ensuring their safety and the building fabric, prior to the removal of the tree.



- 4.3 During the challenging conditions of Storm Eowyn on Friday 24th January, Care at Home staff demonstrated exceptional dedication and resilience during the red alert period and weekend afterwards. Despite the adverse weather, 190 committed workers carried out over 1500 essential visits, ensuring vulnerable service users received the care and support they needed. Their unwavering efforts reflect compassion, professionalism with a strong community spirit in the face of extreme weather and travel disruption ensured that the most vulnerable members of our community were supported. District Nurse teams reorganised workloads to deliver essential visits earlier and later in the day when winds were less strong and all non-essential visits were rearranged, enabling staff to focus on patients requiring medications, such as insulin and palliative end of life patients dying at home. On the Friday, 251 essential visits were carried out. Additional support was given to care homes, especially those care home without electricity. The senior nurse and team leads were available covering all shifts, one team lead cancelled their day off to support the service. In total there were 65 nurses on duty during the storm period.
- 4.4 The hard work, dedication and true compassion collectively was shown by staff working in Mental Health Inpatient services. Due to travel restrictions and necessary school closures resulting in unexpected parental leave, the service had a number of staffing shortfalls due to staff being

unable to travel to the wards; however, the staff worked together to support each other, prioritising the care and treatment of our patients. The mental health wards also supported local care homes with bed sheets during the power outage.

- 4.5 Inverclyde HSCP's commissioning team contacted all commissioned providers throughout the day of the storm. Two residential care homes and a supported living service within Quarriers Village had no power from 2pm on the day of the storm (Friday). Team members continued to keep in touch with all managers all afternoon with Inverclyde Council colleagues sourcing a small generator and portable heaters to provide emergency lighting and heating. Two residential care homes still had no power into the evening and team members continued to remain in contact with the homes that evening up to after 11pm until the residents were settled. With the power outage continuing into the Saturday afternoon, staff supported the care homes to source hot food, personal care items and traveling to Hillend to pick up hot water in flasks (40 flasks) and delivered them to both care homes to allow residents to have hot drinks. Staff remained in contact with the homes until the power was restored later Saturday afternoon when the HSCP was able to source two large generators from Scottish Power to supply the care homes. Mains power was restored in the late afternoon by Scottish Power.
- 4.6 The Learning disability nursing team travelled early Friday morning before the travel alert became active and also after the storm to Quarriers Village, negotiating a partially blocked road by fallen trees. This resulted in them walking across rural fields to reach the service user to help in administer insulin to a very vulnerable patient.
- 4.7 Business support colleagues ensured a staffing presence at Greenock Health & Care Centre to ensure patient enquiries could be directed and GP and Dental staff were supported with any building issues. The Business Support Teams at both Greenock HCC and Port Glasgow HC stayed late on Thursday evening to call all patients scheduled in for treatment room appointments on Friday, to cancel & rearrange their appointments. There were only a small handful of patients they could not get hold of, and they called them again on the Friday morning to make sure they didn't come into the buildings.
- 4.8 During and after Storm Eowyn we witnessed a strong community response from colleagues at Inverclyde Council, commissioned providers, third sector and community businesses who throughout the weekend period, supported the HSCP's response during the extended power outages with the provision of temporary generators, heaters, hot meals, extra bedding and personal care supplies. HSCP Community nursing staff used their local community links with a local retailer to obtain bedding/clothing for the two care homes impacted by power outages who could not use their laundry equipment. We are grateful to all the community businesses and volunteers who supported the HSCP during Storm Eowyn.



## 5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Colleagues from Civil Contingencies Services are collating the learning from the service response to Strom Eowyn from Inverclyde HSCP, Inverclyde Council and other Priority 1 responders to ensure that learning is taken forward in the preparation of future events and how services will respond.
- 5.2 Inverclyde HSCP will work in partnership with our commissioned providers to ensure that business continuity plans are robust and take into account the scenario where extended power outages are experienced and that portable generators should be available, especially where residential/nursing care homes are in a geographical/rural area. Commissioned providers should also hold a contingency stock of extra bedding and personal care supplies.
- 5.3 Where in the rare event a national red alert travel advisor notice is issued that staff are supported in working from home where possible and that no unnecessary travel takes place. Inverclyde HSCP recognises that this is not possible for front line staff with direct health & social care duties and that we manage staff visits to only essential/critical care and this is managed through our service business continuity plans and resilience partnership.
- 5.4 The Senior Management Team will develop an out of hours system is put in place to coordinate a future event with rotation of roles amongst trained senior staff

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		x
Human Resources		X
Strategic Plan Priorities		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children and Young People		X
Clinical or Care Governance		X
National Wellbeing Outcomes		x
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

## 6.2 Finance

### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 6.3 Legal/Risk

There are no legal considerations.

### 6.4 Human Resources

None

### 6.5 Strategic Plan Priorities

In line with Inverclyde HSCP's Strategic Plan

### 6.6 Equalities

#### (a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

#### (b) Equality Outcomes

How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

<b>Equalities Outcome</b>	<b>Implications</b>
We have improved our knowledge of the local population who identify as belonging to protected groups and have a better understanding of the challenges they face.	Improves access to services
Children and Young People who are at risk due to local inequalities, are identified early and supported to achieve positive health outcomes.	Improves access to services
Inverclyde's most vulnerable and often excluded people are supported to be active and respected members of their community.	Improves access to services
People that are New to Scotland, through resettlement or asylum, who make Inverclyde their home, feel welcomed, are safe, and able to access the HSCP services they may need.	Improves access to services

#### (c) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

**(d) Children and Young People**

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

**6.7 Clinical or Care Governance**

If there is a greater than anticipated seasonal virus impact it is likely to increase demand for service at the same time as Inverclyde HSCP experience higher than usual levels of sickness absence. This will be mitigated by staff vaccine access and service contingency plans.

**6.8 National Wellbeing Outcomes**

How does this report support delivery of the National Wellbeing Outcomes?

<b>National Wellbeing Outcome</b>	<b>Implications</b>
People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	Improves health and wellbeing
People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community	Supports independent living
People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	Improves experience of services
Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	Improves quality of life
Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	Reduces inequalities
People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.	Supports unpaid carers
People using health and social care services are safe from harm.	Keeps people safe
People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	Engages with our community
Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services.	Effective use of resources

## 6.9 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

## 6.10 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

## 7.0 DIRECTIONS

7.1	<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	Direction to:	
		1. No Direction Required	X
		2. Inverclyde Council	
		3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GG&C)	
		4. Inverclyde Council and NHS GG&C	

## 8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 N/A

## 9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None