

Meeting: [Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board](#) **Date:** [08/10/26](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Public Health update on system Winter readiness and year round resilience to adverse weather and infections](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented? [n/a](#)

Cabinet Member Contact Details: [Hayley Tranter, Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, hayley.tranter@torbay.gov.uk](#)

Director Contact Details: [Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health, lincoln.sargeant@torbay.gov.uk](#)

Authors: [Julia Chisnell, Consultant in Public Health julia.chisnell@torbay.gov.uk](#); [Mandy Guy, Public Health Specialist Mandy.Guy@torbay.gov.uk](#); [Lu Wills, Public Health Practitioner Lucinda.Wills@Torbay.gov.uk](#)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report updates the information members received in November 2025 giving an overview of the work of the public health team and partners in the following areas:
- Maintaining year round resilience and readiness in relation to adverse weather and health
 - Preventing and managing outbreaks through good infection control, and tackling anti-microbial resistance
 - Promoting health through uptake of the Winter vaccine programmes.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The programmes of work described in this report will help us to deliver our vision of a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay by helping to prevent and manage poor health through adverse weather and the spread of infections.
- 2.2 There are significant risks associated with excess heat and cold, and these disproportionately affect those who are most vulnerable through poor health, disability, or

economic challenge. This paper outlines plans and activities designed to tackle these risks at national and local level.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1.1 Members are asked to note the report and to continue to support efforts to build and maintain population resilience to adverse weather and infections.

Supporting Information

Preventing and Managing Outbreaks of infection

Local Authority public health teams work with UKHSA on all outbreaks of notifiable diseases. In Torbay we receive notifications of outbreaks in care homes, schools or homeless settings, and work with UKHSA to prepare for and respond to outbreaks in any setting that may require our support.

Vaccination is our key defence against infectious disease. The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination has been updated this year to include Varicella (Chicken Pox) and is now known as MMRV. Torbay Public Health has supported the communication of this change to early years and education settings as well providing leaflets at local events. Devon ICB has focused a project on Torbay under 10s, across the three Primary Care Networks, to cleanse data and hold conversations with parents to understand more about the barriers Torbay families face in accessing vaccinations. This has been supported by our team through conversations with local parents who home school their children. This work will continue with support from the Devonwide Vaccination Outreach team to deliver vaccinations.

Torbay Public Health has worked with Kernow Health CIC, the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) and a Torbay Secondary School to deliver a project on HPV vaccine hesitancy. This project identified barriers and put into place actions to support vaccine uptake. Results have shown that for this school HPV vaccine uptake did increase.

We continue to mitigate against the risk of a future pandemic which includes maintaining risk management systems and participating in regional and national pandemic planning exercises.

Infection prevention & management and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Good infection prevention and control is the cornerstone of the prevention of infectious disease and the spread of infections. NHS and Social Care settings in England are required to follow national guidance in relation to infection prevention and control. This is updated regularly and is used by the Council and our NHS and Care colleagues to promote best practice and monitor compliance.

Torbay Public Health have been active members of the Peninsula Antimicrobial Resistance Group and the development of a new peninsula wide infection prevention and AMR programme due to commence over the next two months. Our local Torbay IPC/ AMR group has continues to be active in reviewing local trends, developing multi-agency working and turning the national AMR commitments into practice.

We delivered a day of events at Torbay Hospital on 19 November 2025 during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, working with our AMR group members, Vaccination Outreach team and the hospital's own roving vaccinators. This supported visitors and hospital staff to understand more about how IPC and vaccinations contribute to AMR.

We have also invested in handwashing demonstrator kits for use with schools, early years and care homes.

This year will build on previous activities and include a primary school competition supported by Torre Abbey, where the finalists designs will be exhibited. The two winning posters will be printed and cascaded out to local schools.

Winter planning as part of year round readiness

UKHSA develops an annual national adverse weather and health plan which includes preparation for both excess heat and excess cold.

In Torbay, the Public Health team work with Emergency Planning to turn the plan into local sector specific action cards which are reviewed and updated each season.

Seasonal Vaccination Programme 2026/27

The annual Autumn/Winter vaccination programme provides vital protection to keep people from developing serious illness and requiring NHS care or admission.

Overall population influenza vaccination coverage for those at risk was above the national rate at 42.5% for Torbay. Uptake for the 65 and over age group was 74.3%, slightly below the national rate of 74.9%. For childhood vaccinations, Torbay at 40.7% was below the national rate of 42.6% and above for primary school aged children at 56.2% versus 54.5% nationally. Torbay's secondary school vaccination rate at 45.7% was similar to the national rate of 44.6%. This year there will be an opportunity for school aged children to access a flu vaccination via a community pharmacy from 1 December. This will support access for those who were not in attendance on the day of their school offer or unable to access a community clinic. A new publication has been launched this year aimed at children with SEND and young people. Torbay Public Health have ensured hard copies of this document have gone out to all Torbay schools.

The national vaccination campaign for 2026/27 started with two waves. The flu vaccination programme started for cohort 1 on 1 September 2026. This included pregnant women, children and young people. The second cohort started on 1 October 2025, focusing on eligible adults. School vaccinations are due to completed in December, with the offer then opening up through

community pharmacies. The flu vaccination programme ends on 31 March 2027. This year those who are homeless (including those sleeping outside, or staying in the hostel) will be automatically eligible for free flu and pneumonia vaccinations. Torbay Public Health have ensured this programme of work has included liaison with Torbay Council's RSI (rough sleeping) team. This work will be led by Chilcote Surgery with an offer also available through the Devonwide Vaccination Outreach team.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme started on 1 October 2026 and will end on 31 January 2027. Eligibility remains the same as for 2025/26 season.

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust Maternity Service has active plans in place to promote and deliver all three Winter vaccines to pregnant women through the season. This is a group where uptake nationally and locally could be much higher, offering increased protection from infection to both the mother and the child. We have reported on [the Torbay Health Partnerships website](#) on the success of the Torbay Hospital Perinatal Vaccine Service, and the 30% reduction in the number of admissions for RSV for babies under the age of 1 year, with 90% of pregnant women receiving an RSV vaccination.

There are 28 community pharmacies offering the flu vaccination in Torbay and of which 21 are also offering the COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Vaccine uptake in Torbay historically tends to be slightly below the Devon and Plymouth rates, mirroring the high proportion of deprivation which is a key factor in low uptake. Our efforts continue to raise this at Devon ICB level for a focus on health inequality groups. We have arranged for the Devonwide Outreach Vaccination team to be part of a Screening and Vaccination session in November as part of our work with Torbay Citizens' Assembly to support coverage in the older adult cohorts. Torbay Public Health, with partners, is working to try and enable an increase in deployment of outreach vaccination clinics in areas where uptake is low and people are less able or likely to attend a GP or pharmacy appointment.

Winter communications programme

The Winter communications campaign is launched in October. Key messages are around the importance of vaccination, and 'choose well' in terms of where to get help when needed.

Torbay Public Health has also been involved via the South West Local Authority Healthy Ageing Network in developing an Every Move Matters Campaign to roll out alongside the national Winter communications campaign. This has included the Torbay Citizens' Assembly voting and feeding back on the proposed imagery to influence the regional campaign. Torbay Council, through the Public Health team along with Adult Social Care, Housing and other departments, promote coordinated Winter well messaging (in leaflet and web formats) focused around: 'keep well, keep warm, keep safe'.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 None identified

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None identified

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 Programmes include communications and engagement plans with local communities and target groups.

6. Procurement Implications

- 6.1 None identified

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 Anti-microbial resistance is strongly linked with climate change and tackling one can help to tackle the other. Sustainability is a target area in the South West Infection Prevention and Management Strategy which we are all signed up to deliver.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 There are risks to population health and to health and care services associated with Winter infections and poor infection management or response. The aim of the programmes described in this paper is to put in place measures to control and address these risks.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old. 55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.	Age is a risk factor for infection.	Age guides targeting of infection control measures including vaccine programmes.	
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	Carers are a risk group.	Vaccine programmes target carers.	
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	Those with clinical risk conditions are at higher risk.	These groups are targeted in the vaccine programmes.	
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		

	to the Southwest and is lower than England.			
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	Pregnancy, and infants, are at additional risk.	These groups are targeted for vaccination.	
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative		

		differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		People in more challenged socio-economic circumstances are at greater risk of low vaccine uptake.	These groups are targeted for vaccine outreach.	
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		All programmes are designed to improve population health.	All programmes are designed to improve population health.	
Human Rights impacts		Services and providers will remain cognisant of human rights, including the right to life, health, privacy, education and prohibition of discrimination.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate	Infection prevention, AMR, and vaccine programmes all have activities targeting children.	Infection prevention, AMR, and vaccine programmes	

	Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.		all have activities targeting children.	
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10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 10.1 Planning for Winter includes all areas of the Council to a varying degree, and relevant teams are involved in preparation and delivery.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 11.1 All of these programmes involve close partnership working across the Integrated Care System, including voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, and all are intended to promote and improve health across the whole of our population.