



Overview & Scrutiny

8 October 2026

Public Health update on system Winter readiness

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Our role in:

Maintaining year round resilience & readiness

Preventing & managing outbreaks

Promoting & protecting health through vaccination

Year round resilience & readiness

Adverse Weather & Health Planning



Adverse Weather and Health Plan
Protecting health from weather related harm
2025 to 2026



- prevent mortality
- prevent morbidity
- reduce the use of healthcare

Adverse Weather & Health Planning



Adverse Weather and Health Plan

Protecting health from weather related harm

2025 to 2026



- Multi-agency
- Shared plans
- Build capacity
- Training & awareness
- Identify & support vulnerable communities
- Heat & cold weather alerts
- Comms & campaigns
- Surveillance

In Torbay – localised team based action cards

- Public Health
- Emergency Planning
- Adult Social Care
- Children's Services
- Culture and Events
- Rough Sleeping
- Highways, Harbours, Parking
- Health and Safety
- Communications
- HR
- Housing

Action Card: Cold-Health Alerts

Red Alert (Emergency Response)

A red alert would indicate significant risk to life for even the healthy population.

Actions for Consideration

Adult and Community Services

- o Adult Services (Community Care)

- Respond to
- Cascade
- extra care
- Where appropriate, email, text
- Be on-call
- events
- commissioning staff.

Action Card: Cold-Health Alerts

Amber Alert (Enhanced Response)

An amber alert would represent a situation in which the expected impacts are likely to be felt across the whole health service, with potential for the whole population to be at risk and where other sectors apart from health may also start to observe impacts, indicating that a coordinated response is required.

Actions for Consideration

Adult and Community Services

- o Commissioning
 - Cascade
 - care, support
- o ASB / Vulnerability

Action Card: Cold-Health Alerts

Yellow Alert (Response)

Yellow alerts may be issued during periods of cold in which would be unlikely to impact most people, but those who are particularly vulnerable (for example, the elderly with multiple physical/ mental health conditions and those who are experiencing homelessness) are likely to struggle to cope and where action is required within the health and social care sector specifically.

A yellow alert may also be issued if the confidence in the weather forecast is low, but there could be more significant impacts if the worst-case scenario is realised. In this situation the alert may be upgraded as the confidence in both the weather forecast and the likelihood of

Action Card: Cold-Health Alerts

Pre-winter readiness and winter preparedness

No alert will be issued as the conditions are likely to have minimal impact and health.

However, it is important to ensure that plans are in place and that relevant departments are able to provide a proportionate response should an alert (yellow, amber, or red) be issued.

Pre-winter readiness and winter preparedness actions should be completed by 1st November.

In Torbay – what do we do?

Priorities

- Know our ‘vulnerable groups’
- Know who to talk to
- Have our messages ready
- Trusted voices
- Economic hardship
- Pre-agreed escalation
- Corporate risk register

Activities

- Advice & guidance
- Signpost to support
- Transport, roads
- SWEP protocol for rough sleepers
- ‘Keep warm, safe & well’
- Warm spaces

Keeping Warm



Energy saving tips

- Try to keep heating at 18°C in main living area.
- Close curtains at night.
- Have regular wall and roof inspections. Struggling for funds?
- Layer clothing at home.
- Draught proof your home.
- Book a **FREE** energy home visit with



66+ Are you state pensioner?

- Pension Credit to top up your state pension or Age UK Torbay



Rent or mortgage advice

- If you're at risk of losing your home, call our housing advice line



Council tax advice

- If you're on a low income, you may be able to receive up to 10% discount. Call **01803 207200**



Where else to get help

- Citizens Advice

Keeping Safe



Tips to manage damp, mould and cold in your home

- Keep all rooms in use heated to reduce condensation.
- Prevent heat loss through walls and windows.
- Make sure vents and air holes in radiators can get out.
- Reduce excess moisture; use extractor fans while cooking, try not to dry clothes indoors.



Travel safely

- Check weather conditions before travelling



Avoid falls

- Keep moving to maintain strength and balance
- Get regular eye and hearing checks
- Be careful of ice, slippery leaves and snow
- Take care of your feet and wear appropriate footwear

The Torbay Community Helpline is available for residents for help with anything from council tax to wellbeing support. Call **01803 446022**

www.torbay.gov.uk/w

Keeping Well



Get your vaccines

- Get Flu, COVID-19 and other winter vaccines. Ask your pharmacist, or call NHS **119**



Wash your hands

- One of the simplest ways to stay well.



Look after your wellbeing

- Connect with the people around you.
- Keep learning by trying something new.
- Give a bit of your time to a friend or someone in your community.
- Take notice of nature and the world around you.
- Be active and take a little bit of exercise every day.
- If you are feeling a bit lonely or disconnected get in touch with your local Community Helpline. Call **01803 446022**



TORBAY COUNCIL

Keeping Winter Well in Torbay



Seasonal vaccination programme 2026-27

Why is vaccination so important?

- Prevents disease, saves lives
- Protects the vulnerable
- Prevents chronic illness exacerbations as well as infections
- Keeps the NHS and Care system moving
- Estimated over 104,000 hospital admissions prevented by flu vaccination Winter 2025/26
- Estimated 3,798 'excess deaths' (above average) from flu in England in 2025/26, 9,740 in 2024/25
- Vaccine uptake has been dropping since the pandemic – esp in young children, pregnancy, people with chronic health conditions



Winter vaccines 2026/27

Flu

- 65+
- Pregnancy
- Children 2-16
- Health risk groups
- Carers
- Care homes
- Health & care workers
- Homeless (including sleeping outside, staying in a homeless hostel or a night shelter)

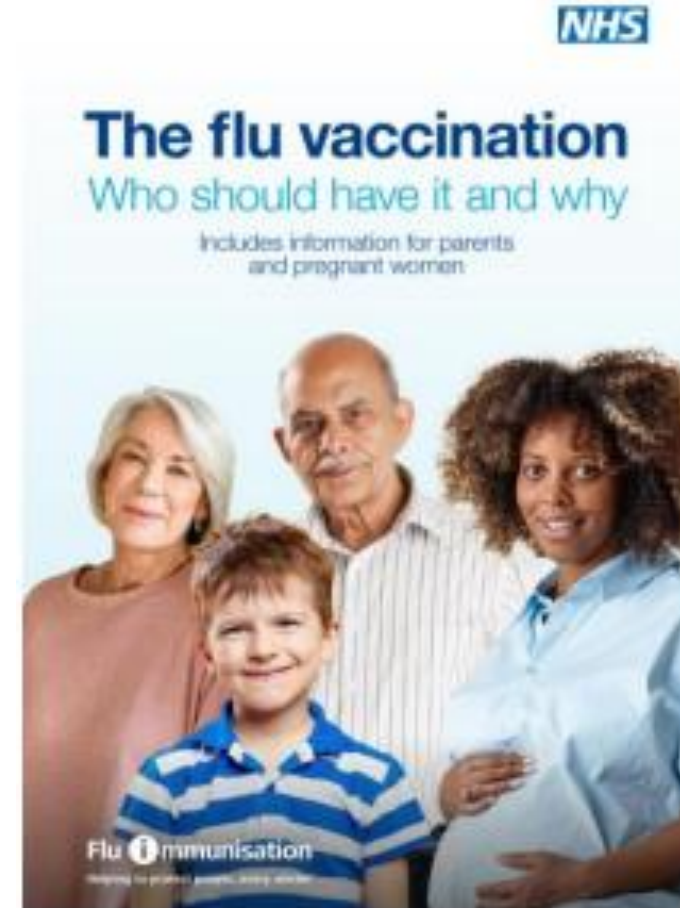


Covid-19

- 75+
- Older adult care homes
- Immuno-compromised (weakened immune system)

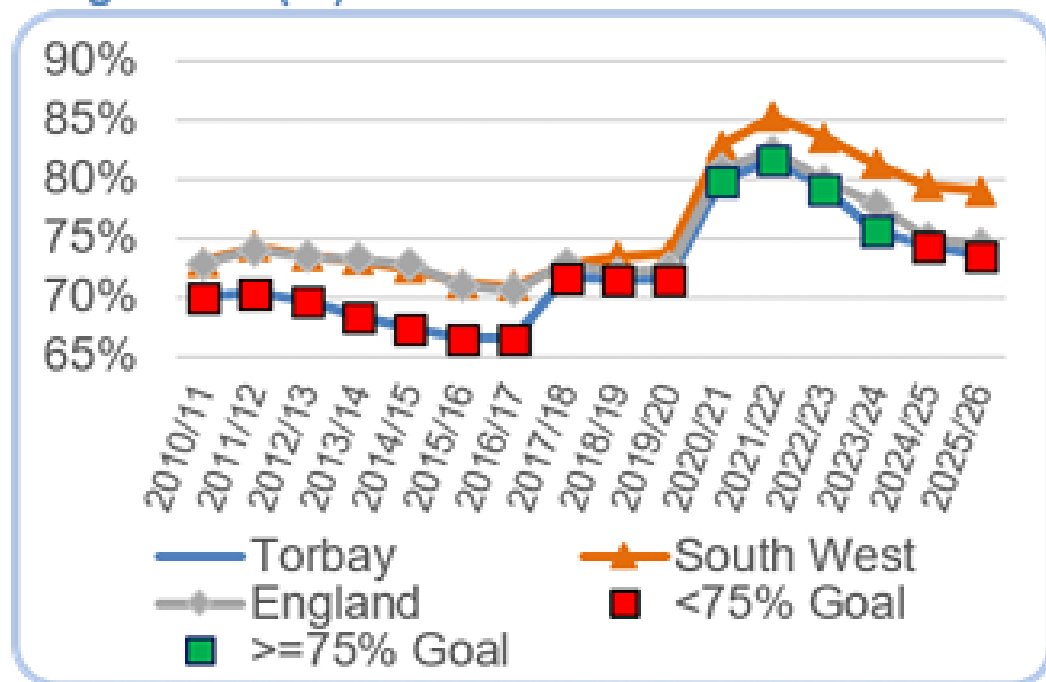
Flu vaccine uptake in Torbay

- Similar to England rates
- Just below Devon neighbours in most groups – except for Trust staff
- Lower than we want it to be to protect our population



Age 65 and over - uptake

Fig 2: Population vaccination coverage for Flu – Aged 65+ (%)

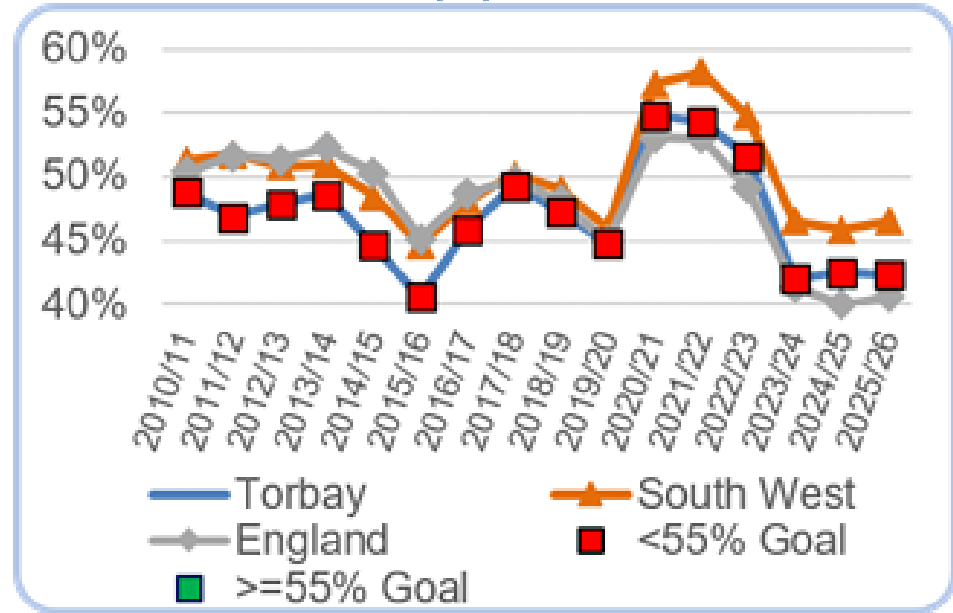


Source: OHID Fingertips and UKHSA (2025/26)

Torbay was the only upper-tier council in the South West not to exceed the 75% target uptake (at 73.5%) in 2025/26

Clinical risk conditions - uptake

Fig 3: Population vaccination coverage for Flu – At-risk individuals (%)

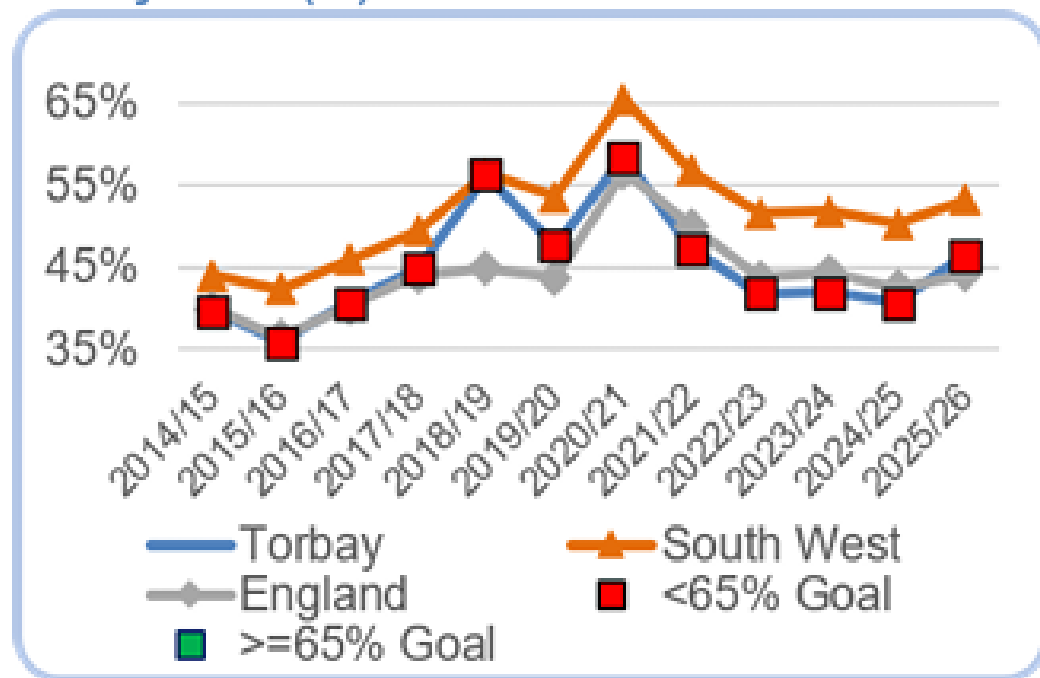


Source: OHID Fingertips and UKHSA (2025/26)

Torbay vaccination coverage was 42.3%, higher than England's 40.6%, but below the 55% target in 2025/26

Children 2-3 years - uptake

Fig 4: Population vaccination coverage for Flu – 2-3 yrs old (%)



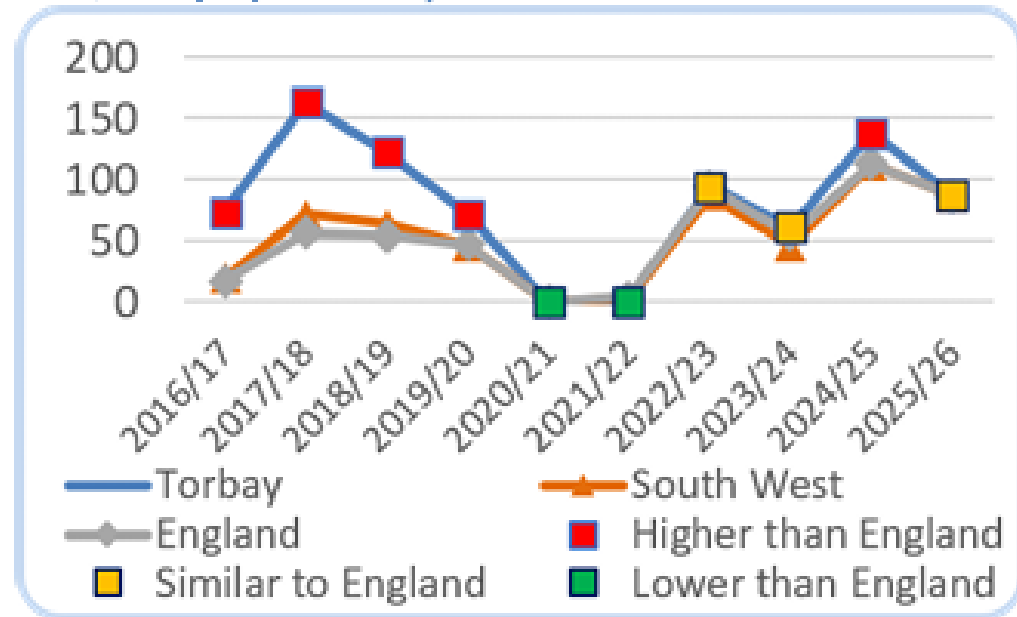
Source: OHID Fingertips and UKHSA (2025/26)

Torbay uptake in 2025/26 was 46.5% against a target of 65%

Consistently below South West average uptake

Emergency hospital admissions for flu - trend

Fig 1: Emergency hospital admissions for influenza (Directly Age Standardised Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: HES

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, and in 2024/25, Torbay had significantly more emergency hospital admissions for flu than both the South West and England. Admissions in 2025/26 were closer to England.

Peak admissions are usually December & February.

What is our role?

Work, with partners, to promote uptake:

- *Make it known* – increase awareness
- *Make it easy* - support outreach
- *Make it understood* – combat dis/misinformation

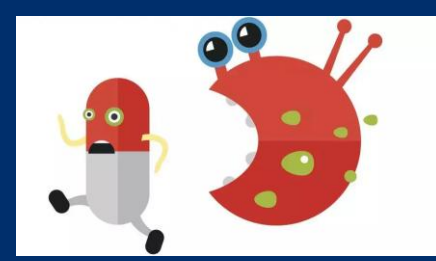


What are we doing

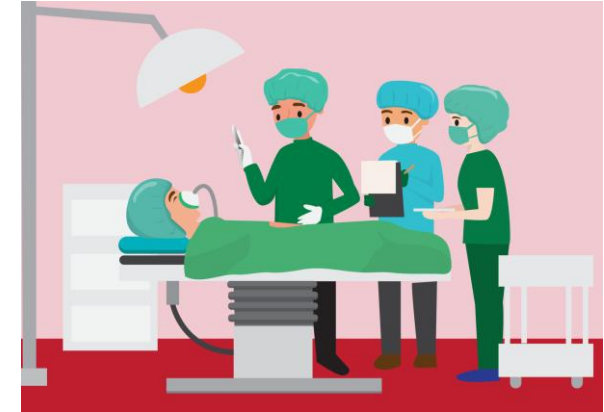
- Pharmacies are offering more vaccines, including for school children from 1 December
- Working with Primary Care Networks to target low uptake as part of Winter frailty plans 2026/27
- Working with NHS Devon to enable the Vaccine Outreach Team to reach more communities in Torbay this year
- Activities:
 - Homeless, hostel vaccine clinics
 - Outreach Vaccination Team pop-up clinics for low uptake areas
 - Education & vaccine confidence opportunities
 - Some workplaces
 - Council staff, including dedicated SWISCo flu vaccine clinics

Infection prevention & AMR

Infection prevention



- Prevention is always better than....
- Lots we can do to stop catching infections in the first place
- Combat anti-microbial resistance – where infections last longer & are more difficult to treat
- AMR now leads to more than a million deaths globally and 35,200 deaths each year in the UK; estimated to reach 10 million annually globally by 2050



Local action

- Work with schools & early years (poster competition)
- NHS & Care homes
- Working with Torbay Citizens' Assembly
- AMR Week 2026 – join the superbug squad....
- Look out for the seafront lights turning blue



Where members & partners can support

- Individually & collectively, model safe behaviours
 - get our vaccines, wash our hands (amazingly effective), use antibiotics wisely, be Winter ready, look out for those who are more vulnerable
- Promote prevention
 - vaccines are truly our best defence, against infections and the wider impact (missing work, caring responsibilities, risk of stroke)
- Support our vaccine outreach programmes
 - help us identify sites for pop up clinics: healthprotection@Torbay.gov.uk
- Promote Winter well
 - [Keeping Winter Well in Torbay - Torbay Council](#)