

## **Heatwaves**

### **Updates at the Local Resilience Forum Level**

West Mercia Local Resilience Forum have now formed the Extreme Weather Planning Group. There is engagement across the board and Applied Resilience are involved.

The Extreme Weather Planning Group have been taken to produce the West Mercia Local Resilience Forum Adverse Weather Plan.

The Meteorological Office has now been categorised as a category 2 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act Of 2004.

The Met Office have improved as to giving all partners more advanced notification, this will provide us with more time to allow for planning in relation to weather events.

## **Cool Hubs**

Currently, (available for 2025), the Church of England venues and Worcestershire County Council Libraries will be open to the public and can be used as cool hubs during routine opening times.

The booking of a room in at a Worcestershire County Council Library can be considered to act specifically as a cool hub.

All library staff are DBS checked.

Work is ongoing to see if Redditch and Bromsgrove Day centres can be used. Where venues are open ordinarily to the public the public can attend.

## **Plans**

Redditch and Bromsgrove have a draft adverse weather plan that links in with the plan Worcestershire County Council have produced to ensure coordination.

This plan will be presented for sign off shortly.

## **Warning and Informing**

Redditch and Bromsgrove have a duty to warn and inform for any incident.

Within the adverse weather plan there are links to longstanding summer campaigns shown below. Communications teams will be encouraged to promote these during periods of adverse heat.

UK Gov - [Beat the heat](#). General advice as to how to keep safe during hot weather.

NHS - [Heat exhaustion and heatstroke](#). Signs and symptoms, what to do if you or someone has these conditions and treatment.

NHS - [Sunscreen and sun safety](#). Advice specifically for the benefits of using sunscreen and general safety in sunny conditions.

NHS - [Keeping your baby safe in the sun](#). Specific advice for keeping babies in sunny / hot conditions.

Royal Life Saving Society - [Cold water shock](#)

[Safe Summer Swimming from RLSS](#). Advice regarding swimming and the potential for cold water shock.

At some of the highest levels of escalation (amber and red), there will need to be considerations to undertake welfare calls to residents considered vulnerable.

## **Priority Services Register**

Utility companies have a Priority Service Register for customers considered vulnerable.

For more information please see this link: <https://www.thepsr.co.uk>

This can be publicised at any time to residents. During a utility outage the various companies will prioritise those known to them, for example during a water outage, deliveries can be made to customers directly.

## **Business Continuity Plans**

Work is ongoing to update business continuity across all Redditch and Bromsgrove services. This is aimed to be completed by April 2025.

## **Training**

Redditch and Bromsgrove staff are appropriately trained to respond to any emergency including adverse heat.