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Public Health
Wales

Winter Planning and Response

QSIC Update

November 2025

Winter Planning and Response

Our purpose

At the request of Public Health Wales' Chief Executive Officer, a cross-directorate Winter Planning and Response group has been established to provide assurance to BET and QSIC on the following areas:

1. Strengthening community-based care to reduce reliance on hospital services, through:
 - a) Preventative and proactive interventions
 - b) Timely urgent response capabilities
 - c) Enhanced 'step-up' care models with multi-professional support
2. Maximising acute and community hospital capacity to ensure resilience during peak demand.
3. Optimising patient flow with a strong emphasis on discharge planning and a 'home first' approach.

This has allowed potential gaps to be identified, and collaboration efforts prioritised.

Activity to date

PHW Winter Planning and Response Coordination Group: Central collation of cross-organisational activities; identification of gaps for joined-up working.

HARP: Finalising ARI guidance; contributing to system resilience planning; supporting CDI collaborative; WHC advice submitted; exploring universal masking framework with NHSE; Midday Masterclasses underway.

Health Protection: Surge capacity plan in place; ongoing ARI/ILI support to care homes; national coordination continues to ensure resilience.

VPDP: Real-time WIS data enhances flu/COVID surveillance; October reports released; campaigns launched 1 Oct; stakeholder toolkits in development.

CDSC: Ongoing respiratory surveillance and vaccine effectiveness monitoring; updates shared with system resilience group.

HWB: New Help Me Quit app and campaign launched; NERS review underway; Warm Wales evaluation in progress; updated winter wellbeing content live.

Policy & International: “Winter Well-being” published – comms messaging to support; cold homes work ongoing; behavioural science workshop held to boost staff flu uptake.

NQIG: Staff flu campaign live; clinics and vouchers in use; WIS data issues under review; mask guidance and falls prevention work progressing.

Comms: National flu campaign ongoing with strong media reach; preventative behaviours campaign launching 1 Nov.