

Team Name:  
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## Supply of Keep Warm Packs

### SITUATION

- The Public Health Agency had been providing Keep Warm Packs to help protect and reduce the incidence of cold-related illnesses for those most vulnerable to fuel poverty and/or the effects of cold weather.
- Although work was progressed to ensure as much regional consistency as possible there were some variations in pack quality, content and cost across the various localities.
- Approximately 6,000 packs were previously procured annually across the locality offices.



### TASK

- Engage with the existing market to establish requirements for the Public Health Agency to decide on the most beneficial contents of keep warm packs to improve health and wellbeing of those most vulnerable to fuel poverty and/or the effects of cold weather.
- Put in place a contract with a single supplier to supply and deliver keep warm packs across the region with high quality items which had proven benefits to help families affected by fuel poverty.



### ACTIONS

- BSO Procurement and Logistics Service provided the PHA with the opportunity to review and make improvements to the previous scheme, especially in terms of pack type, content, quality, and value for money.
- A call for tender was published to award a contract to a single supplier for a specified range of packs with high quality contents which would meet the needs of the clients.



### RESULTS

- Contract awarded to a local supplier for 3 years with the option to extend for a further 24 months.
- Feedback from the Public Health Agency (PHA) *“Regional procurement has undoubtedly supported the PHA to streamline all aspects of the scheme, ensuring greater consistency as well as improving the scheme’s efficiency and ability to respond to emerging need at relatively short notice. Perhaps most significantly the regionalised scheme has exceeded our expectations in terms of value for money - in the first year (2017/2018) 7614 packs were provided to vulnerable clients to help keep them warmer in their homes over the winter – helping the PHA and our partner organisations to support an additional 1614 clients annually.”*
- Included in the extra 1614 clients were 750 packs delivered urgently to assist Syrian refugees repatriated in Northern Ireland.

**Keep Warm Pack For children**

With expensive fuel costs and colder weather, it can be difficult to heat our homes, pay fuel bills and stay warm. Children are affected by cold temperatures, which can lead to illness. Young children often fret and cry if they become cold, since they find the experience uncomfortable, even painful. To help protect your child from the cold weather, we have provided you with a Keep Warm Pack, which includes:

- fleece cardigan
- warm socks
- blanket
- popper vests (age 1–2 years pack)
- thermal vests (age 2+ years pack)
- thermal long johns (age 2+ years pack)

**Tips for keeping your child warm in cold weather**

- Wearing several layers of light clothing is the most effective way of keeping warm as the layers trap warm air. The thermal vest can be worn under a long-sleeved top. The fleece cardigan can be worn over clothes indoors, or under a warm coat outdoors.
- Keeping an eye on room temperature is important. Your main living room should be around 18–21°C, and the rest of the house at least 16°C.
- Check your child is not cold in bed at night. Feel their feet and tummy to see if they need socks or extra blankets. Make sure they sleep with the windows closed.

Getting ready to go outside in the cold takes time to do properly, especially with young children. Leave enough time to put a coat, hat and gloves on your child before they leave the house. A hat is especially effective for keeping warm outdoors. Always take a mobile phone with you.

Always remove wet clothing when returning indoors. Regular hot meals provide warmth and energy. Try to ensure your child has at least one hot meal a day. Something warm to eat or drink before bedtime will help keep them warm.

If it's very cold or icy outside, try to keep your child active indoors (eg playing active games). Physical activity gets their circulation going and warms them up.

If your child is sitting down a lot, thin layers or a blanket will help keep them warm. Put the blanket over their knees or shoulders to help keep them warm when watching TV, reading a book or lying down to rest.

In the event of very extreme weather, ensure you have enough food and medicines in stock.

All children aged 2 years to Primary 7 can now get the flu vaccine, as well as other children and young people with chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes. Be sure to get your child a seasonal flu vaccine from your GP or school if they are in P1 to P7. Seasonal flu viruses are always changing, so they need to have a flu vaccine every year.

If you have a child aged under one year, talk to your midwife, health visitor or family nurse about keeping your baby at a safe temperature. Overheating can increase the risk of sudden infant death, see the Birth to Five book or visit: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids)

We hope you enjoy this Keep Warm Pack.

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**HSC Public Health Agency**

[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)