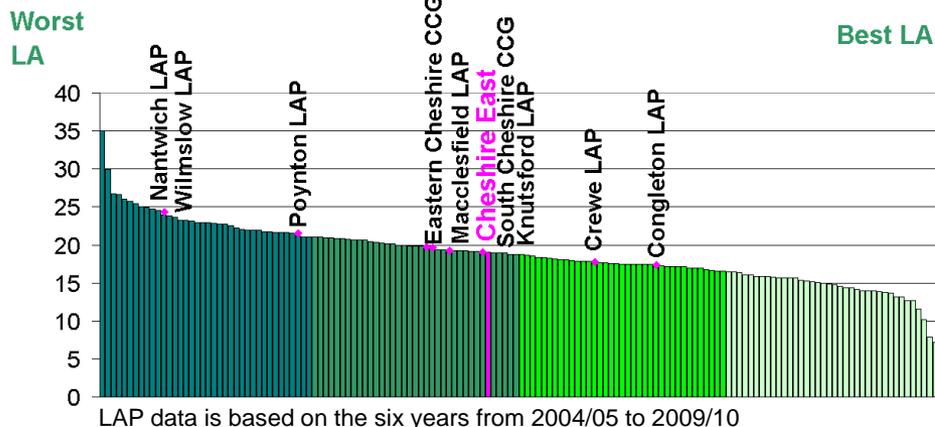


4.15 Excess Winter Deaths Index: The ratio of extra deaths from all causes that occur in the winter months compared to the expected number of deaths, based on the average of the number of non-winter deaths, 2007-2010



Excess Winter Deaths	Annual excess winter deaths	Excess risk of winter death	Change needed to achieve		
			England average	Best quarter	England best
Congleton LAP	48	17.4%	-	2 less	28 less
Crewe LAP	44	17.8%	-	3 less	26 less
Knutsford LAP	16	19.1%	-	2 less	10 less
Macclesfield LAP	40	19.7%	2 less	7 less	26 less
Nantwich LAP	28	24.3%	6 less	9 less	19 less
Poynton LAP	18	21.5%	2 less	4 less	12 less
Wilmslow LAP	27	24.1%	6 less	9 less	19 less
NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG	119	19.8%	10 less	23 less	81 less
NHS South Cheshire CCG	102	19.3%	6 less	13 less	59 less
Cheshire East	221	19.7%	16 less	36 less	140 less

The comparable excess risk of winter death for England is 17.6%

Suggested Actions

- A local Cold Weather Plan that prevents and deals with the health consequences of cold weather
- Increasing the uptake of influenza vaccinations
- The Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Groups should work together to develop fuel poverty referral mechanisms (for insulation and better heating) aimed at those people who are clinically at greatest risk
- During periods of cold weather, shops could offer free home deliveries of groceries to vulnerable people

Evidence Of What Works

- Annual flu vaccination is an important free protective measure
- Keeping warm during cold weather, both indoors and outdoors
- Planning ahead so there is a clear response to a cold spell

Asset Map

- The Marmot Review
- The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report for 2009
- Reducing Excess Winter Deaths is a key outcome measure in the Cold Weather Plan for England

Interpreting the Data

Winter deaths in Cheshire East are 26% higher among people over the age of 85 compared to 17.2% for those aged 65 to 84 and 9.8% for those aged under 65. The equivalent figures for England are 24.4% for people over the age of 85, 15.1% for those aged 65 to 84, and 7.1% for under 65's. The risk is 55.9% higher locally for people who have respiratory disease and 22.3% higher for cardiovascular disease

Winter has an important influence on people's risk of illness and death. Cold weather causes a rise in blood pressure which can lead to a heart attack. It also makes the blood thicken and this can lead to a thrombosis (blood clot) which causes death from heart attack or stroke. Cold weather also lowers people's resistance to chest infections, particularly influenza.