

Requests for food and other support are increasing

We are seeing a few more requests for support for food as case numbers increase and we remain grateful to the community groups who have been offering support. However, we are mindful that not all groups are currently able to offer support where there is an immediate and pressing request for food. Should you come across residents in need of such support, but your group is not in a position to offer it, please refer them to us via the usual routes - [email](#) us if possible or call 01954 713070.

The [County Council COVID-19 coordination hub](#) is still operating and we are working closely with them as we have throughout the pandemic. Please feel free to refer any residents to the hub too if any support is needed.

Duty Communities Christmas availability

Over the Christmas week, colleagues in SCDC's Communities Team will be available via email or telephone on Wednesday 29 to Friday 31 December as normal. Only on Bank Holidays (Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 December, and Monday 3 January), will we not be monitoring the phone or inbox.

Cold weather alert

The UK Health Security Agency issued a cold weather alert which runs until Christmas Eve. This is primarily for places much further north, but we wanted to share some reminders about the need for vulnerable people to keep warm in cold weather. Please share the [Keep Warm Keep Well guide](#) with any vulnerable residents, for tips to keep warm (leaflet also attached for reference).

For people struggling to afford heating bills, [Simple Energy Advice](#) provides free advice on energy efficiency and the national grants that are available to help keep people warm this winter.

Social care referrals

This has been another challenging year for everyone but Christmas can be an especially difficult time of year for some families and individuals; if you are concerned about any resident's welfare, there is support available. Please [visit our website](#) where you can find information about how to let local support teams know about your concerns, whether they are one of our tenants, or a private resident.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!

Bill

Bill Handley

Lead Cabinet Member for Community Resilience, Health and Wellbeing
South Cambridgeshire District Council