epilepsy society

21st October 2026

Epilepsy Society
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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Dear Yvette,

Act now to save lives next summer

Temperatures this year have been record-breaking. Tragically, so have heat-related deaths.

When the temperature rises, the most vulnerable are hit hardest. The Epilepsy Society is at the forefront of research into the health impacts of climate change and they are clear: extreme heat is a medical emergency for people with neurological conditions.

For those in residential care and for those receiving care at home, heat can be fatal. In summer 2025, 45% of all heat-associated deaths occurred in care homes. And this is only getting worse. Heat-related deaths for May and June 2026 are almost double the total for the entirety of summer 2025.

There is a Warm Homes Plan to protect the vulnerable during cold winters. But where is the Cool Homes Plan? Sadly, winter is no longer the only life-threatening season.

Recently, there was an announcement of welcome investment in projects to cool hospitals. But what happens when a vulnerable person is discharged from hospital to a care facility that is dangerously hot?

We need to act now. We need to Keep Care Cool.

1. Establish a **Cool Homes Plan** with dedicated grants for essential cooling adaptations and retrofitting to protect those most at risk of extreme heat.
2. Introduce and enforce **standards and regulations** to encourage cooling measures in all social care settings and public buildings, including instructions to the CQC to ensure that care home providers keep people at safe temperatures.
3. Form a **cross-social care sector working group** to develop and promote guidance on good practice for all care environments during heatwaves.

By next summer, it will be too late. We urge you to meet with us to discuss how we can work to protect vulnerable people before the next heatwave.

Yours ever

Clare

Clare Pelham
Chief Executive

Patron **His Majesty The King** President **The Countess Howe** Chief Executive **Clare Pelham**
Company limited by guarantee, registered no. 492761 England,
VAT no. GB207810680 | Registered charity no. 206186

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Helpline
01494 601400
Monday and Wednesday 9am to 7.30pm
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 4pm
Saturday 9am to 12.30pm
(National call rate)

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Caroline Abrahams CBE, Charity Director, Age UK

David Newbold, Director of Community, Parkinson's UK

Nadra Ahmed CBE, Co-Chair, National Care Association

Colin Morris, Director of Communications, Headway

Patricia Marquis, Executive Director for England, Royal College of Nursing

Professor Martin Green CBE, Chief Executive, Care England

Charlie Brown, Director, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

CIBSE

Vic Rayner OBE, CEO, National Care Forum

Ceri Smith, Head of Policy and Evidence, MS Society

Olivier Picard, Chair, National Pharmacy Association

Helen Wildbore, CEO, Care Rights UK

Duleep Allirajah, CEO, Richmond Group of Charities

Asad Rehman, Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Dr Marina Romanello, Prof of Global Health and Climate Change, UCL Institute for Global Health

Prof. Benedict Michael MBChB, FRCP, PhD, Director, Liverpool Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Centre

Luke Taylor MP	Andy McDonald MP	Desmond Swayne MP
Olly Glover MP	Allison Gardner MP	Iqbal Mohamed MP
Sarah Green MP	James Asser MP	Caroline Dinenage MP
Gideon Amos MP	Daniel Francis MP	Rachael Maskell MP
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Vikki Slade MP	Carla Denyer MP	Cllr A Kelly
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Cllr Ian Hamilton

Cllr Maureen Nixon

Cllr Kemi Akinola

Cllr Alison Moore

Cllr Hazel Dawkins

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