

Position Status Categories

- 1 - Stop monitoring or determine whether any further action is required
- 2 - Achieved
- 3 - Not fully implemented (Obstacle)
- 4 - Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- 5 - Not fully implemented (Progress made not acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- 6 - Not for review this session

Recommendation 5 - That the Director of Public Health in Leeds works closely with the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods to develop a clear strategy around fuel poverty data collection before April 2013.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Public Health and Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods in July 2012):

The Scrutiny report recognises the need to ensure that local trends in fuel poverty are monitored effectively to demonstrate progress in tackling fuel poverty, set out in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. This is a complicated request, as fuel poverty is a function of home energy efficiency levels, energy prices, income and a host of other minor factors. Additionally, the impact of fuel poverty on an individual depends to a large extent on their vulnerability, with elderly people, the very young and people with disabilities being much more at risk of ill health. Whilst there are good fuel poverty statistics available from Government, these are very high level. Scrutiny members were more interested in gathering and manipulating local data in order to target interventions to support most vulnerable people.

Currently, local fuel poverty assessments are based on the last Home Energy Conservation Association (HECA) survey conducted in 2009 which Local Authorities are no longer required to undertake, whilst they await details of the successor legislation to the Home Conservation Act 1995. Therefore, the Council has suspended the annual HECA survey and instead is monitoring change using a combination of energy efficiency measures installed, fuel use data and Energy Performance Certificates. The Director of Public Health agrees to work closely with the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods to develop a clear strategy around fuel poverty data collection, to include housing/energy data, income data and health factors, before the end of April 2013.

Position reported in November 2012:

The Energy Policy Team (EPT) have begun purchasing Energy Performance Certificate data to build an up to date picture of energy efficiency across the Leeds Housing Stock and to better define our understanding of Fuel Poverty. EPT and NHS Leeds have also met to begin the process of combining Public Health and energy efficiency data at Middle Super Output Area level in order to better target energy measures and develop a better understanding of the effectiveness of energy efficiency/heating measures in alleviating ill health.

Position reported in October 2013:

EPT have now procured up to date EPC data to target interventions under the Green Deal/ECO. This has also been supplemented by desk top surveys of the City using mapping technology to select areas for specific works, for example properties likely to be suitable for narrow cavity wall insulation. Our procurement process requires prospective contractors for all schemes, such as Wrap Up Leeds, Wrap UP Leeds +, Wrap Up Leeds

ECO and the upcoming City Region wide Green Deal framework, to report back data on the housing stock in order to maintain an up to date level of knowledge.

Additionally, we use benefits data held by the council to target measures towards low income groups where possible

Within primary care, those identified as being at high risk of hospital admission (using risk stratification data – **see Recommendation 9 (i)**) are being assessed by their GP practice, which includes their needs for fuel poverty support.

Furthermore, a bid has been submitted by the Public Health and Environment Policy Teams to National Energy Action. We have requested expertise around systematic data collection in order to better report on the Fuel Poverty priority in the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2013) which fits with the new low income high cost definition in Leeds as recommended by the Hills Review.

Current position:

We purchase updated EPC data on an annual basis to improve our knowledge of the housing stock and its energy characteristics and continue to collect data from contractors working on our energy efficiency schemes such as Wrap Up Leeds and the forthcoming City Region Green Deal ECO scheme. We have an established procedure for using benefits data held by the Council to inform low income households of schemes that may benefit them which we have used on several occasions where appropriate.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 8(i) - That Area Committees nominate a Fuel Poverty Champion to drive forward local action in addressing fuel poverty problems associated with their particular areas.

Formal Response (provided by the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) in July 2012):

During discussions at the Area Chairs Forum meeting on 13th July it was agreed that the issue of fuel poverty is a major concern for Area Committees and that local action needs to be determined to tackle particular problems at a local level. A review of Area working commenced in June which will look at the role of Area Committees and will include a review of how Area Committees can be enabled to provide a local influence over a range of issues and services. This review will cover the role of Area Committee sub-boards and champions in order to make effective use of members time and influence, and to ensure that robust links are created with officers in council services and partner organisations to enable the roles of champions to be productive and influential. It was therefore agreed that the Area Committee's role in influencing the fuel poverty agenda be included in the review of Area Working, and that appropriate responsibility for an Area Committee champion or sub board would be included in the recommendations of the review.

Position reported in November 2012:

After an extensive consultation exercise with elected members, council officers, partners and other stakeholders, the Review of Area Working has reached the stage of a report being taken to CLT in October prior to formal recommendations being taken to Executive Board in December 2012. The recommendations will cover the appointment of Area Committee Champions.

Position reported in October 2013:

The review of area working has been completed with a number of recommendations now being implemented including:

- The nomination of Area Lead Members to work with Executive Board portfolio holders to support key priority areas children's services; health and well-being; community safety; environmental services; adult social care; and employment, skills and welfare reform
- The introduction of the concept of "community councils" building on the work of area committees to provide an enhanced local democratic leadership model and engage local people more effectively.

These and other recommendations being implemented are intended to provide a greater local influence on service design, delivery and action to tackle local issues including fuel poverty. Although the model for Area Lead Members is designed so that the focus for action will be agreed by the Area Lead Members, Executive Board members, locality teams and services, we will make sure that fuel poverty is written into the supporting briefs as appropriate.

In addition there are four propositions being developed through the new Citizens and Communities directorate one of which is aimed at tackling financial hardship including a fuel poverty strand which will drive forward local action through Area Lead Members and other champions.

Current position:

Following on from the Area Review report in 2011, community committees have moved away from informal champions in a range of policy areas to a more formal structure of champion roles from summer 2013. As a result of this, in some areas, Health and Wellbeing Champions have taken over the role of driving forward action on fuel poverty. However, some community committees choose to continue to nominate a fuel poverty champion and at present eight members with a particular interest in fuel poverty are regularly invited to Affordable Warmth Partnership meetings, ensuring that representatives from each of the 3 locality areas are always invited.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 8 (ii) - That the Area Committee Fuel Poverty Champions liaise with their respective Locality Health and Wellbeing Managers to agree the appointment of one Fuel Poverty Champion from each of the 3 localities onto the Leeds Affordable Warmth Partnership.

Formal Response (provided by the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) in July 2012):

One aspect covered in the Area Working review will be the links between Area Committees, Area Support Teams and Area Leadership Teams with the various Partnerships in Leeds. Consultations will take place with a wide range of stakeholders, including Locality Health and Wellbeing Managers and Partnership Boards. It has been agreed that effective links and representation for Area Committees on the Leeds Affordable Warmth Partnership will be included in the review.

Position reported in November 2012:

The Review of Area Working report being taken to Executive Board in December 2012 covers the role of Area Committee Champions and will include recommendations relating to the role of champions and their links with Executive Board and other partnership boards.

Position reported in October 2013:

As set out in recommendation 8(i) above the new approach to developing the Area Lead Member role will embed fuel poverty into the locality working agenda.

Current position:

The Affordable Warmth Partnership invites fuel poverty champions from each of the 3 locality areas.

See response to recommendation 8 (i)

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 9- That the Health and Wellbeing Board works with the local Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure that:

(i) A consistent and systematic approach to identifying the needs of vulnerable householders at risk of fuel poverty is being adopted as part of the developing risk stratification process.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Public Health in July 2012):

The Integrated Health and Social Care Board agreed that the Health and Social Care Integrated neighbourhood teams would use a consistent and systematic approach to identify the needs of vulnerable patients and deliver high impact interventions to reduce excess winter deaths. This process will be embedded within the roll out of the integration of health and social care across the city. The approach consists of three elements – risk stratification (to identify those who in the future are most likely to have higher needs), integrated health and social care teams (including primary care), and systematic self-management – ensuring the patient is at the centre of decisions about their care.

Position reported in November 2012:

Systematic referral systems have been embedded and strengthened within Leeds Community Health Care and 35 Energy champions have been identified and trained. The Energy Champions identified have a particular focus in the Health and Social Care Integrated neighbourhood teams.

Next stage is to establish how to further strengthen this approach within the integrated teams as this programme is rolled out across the city.

Position reported in October 2013:

The Integrated Health and Social Care (IHSC) transformation programme is in year 2 of roll out and is operating across Leeds.

As mentioned under Recommendation 5, the clinical information tool used in risk stratification, incorporates assessment for fuel poverty needs, as well as needs for other high impact interventions to reduce the hazardous effects of cold, as outlined in the Cold Weather Plan.

Energy Champions have been identified to work in each of the IHSC teams. A resource pack has been developed to support GP practices and Integrated Health and Social care teams to pro-actively assess 'high risk' patient's needs. This assessment includes cold and damp housing conditions and referral into the Warm Homes Service where appropriate.

In addition the Energy Champions programme continues to operate In Leeds Community Health Care (LCHC) where patients are routinely assessed for issues related to fuel poverty. A CQUIN (Quality improvement incentive scheme) was developed for LCHC (2012/2013) which improved the systematic identification and referral of patients into the Warm Homes Service. This resulted in more patients being identified across all of the LCHC adult services and increased numbers of patients receiving winter warmth support. Public Health are continuing to support LCHC beyond the end of the CQUIN to ensure sustainability of this programme.

Current position:

The work around fuel poverty is now being embedded within the broader work on adult health and care integration. There are two pieces of work – firstly within the prevention sub-group, with a focus on implementing vulnerable older people’s case finding and referral to high impact interventions (including fuel poverty) and secondly the service specification for the Neighbourhood Teams, for next year the CCGs will aim to include fuel poverty as part of their commitment to supporting vulnerable older people.

Updates will be provided to the Cold Weather Plan Partnership Group. This group reports to the Health Protection Board under the Health and Wellbeing Board.

As this is embedded, we recommend closing this action.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 9 - That the Health and Wellbeing Board works with the local Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure:

(ii) that as part of this process, a consistent approach is being adopted by the developing integrated health and social care teams in ensuring that, once identified, those at risk of fuel poverty are effectively being referred to appropriate support schemes.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Public Health in July 2012):

The Integrated Health and Social Care Board agreed that once individuals have been identified through the risk stratification process, the Health and Social Care Integrated neighbourhood teams would deliver high impact interventions recommended by the Department of Health to reduce excess winter deaths. These interventions include a fuel poverty assessment, benefits review, flu vaccination, lifestyle advice and support, telecare and telehealth referral as appropriate and falls prevention assessments.

Position reported in November 2012:

The ten high impact interventions to reduce excess winter deaths are being incorporated within the organisational development framework within the health and social care integrated teams. The focus of this programme is to ensure that the workforce of the future have the correct level of skills, knowledge and competencies to deliver a comprehensive integrated service in the future.

Position reported in October 2013:

See Recommendation 9 (i).

As of March 2013, 12 Integrated Health and Social Care Teams cover the whole of Leeds. All Teams have at least one Energy Champion allocated, as well as adopting a multi-disciplinary assessment in which inadequate heating in the home is being identified, where this is flagged up as an issue, the Teams would be expected to refer into the Warm Homes Service where appropriate.

Energy Champions have been identified and trained within Integrated Health and Social Care Teams, systems have been established and this has been running since April 13. There have been low numbers of referrals from IHSC teams over the summer months as expected, however it is difficult to establish effectiveness until the teams have been in operation for 12 months, at which time there will be a full review of activity around affordable warmth.

This has been raised at the Better Lives Board by the Director of Integration and agreed as a priority to increase referrals. Public Health have offered to extend training of Energy champions to other members of the IHSCTs.

Current position:

See response to Recommendation 9.1.

The newly appointed co-ordinators of the 13 Integrated Health and Social Care Teams were added to the Energy Champions distribution list, which ensures they are receiving updates on Cold Weather Plan, publicity material (e.g. thermometer cards, leaflets). Face-to-face briefings took place during early 2014 to raise awareness of high impact interventions and encourage referrals into affordable warmth schemes.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 10(i) - That the Executive Board and Health and Wellbeing Board fully supports and regularly monitors the development of a simple, systematic referral pathway and effective uptake for fuel poverty support from key health and council services (this maybe by using the Multi Agency Referral Scheme (MARS) if appropriate.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Public Health in July 2012):

The Director of Public Health provided a report to the Executive Board and Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2012 advising on this particular recommendation. This recommendation was agreed by both the Executive Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was proposed that in developing a simple systematic referral pathway across Health and Council services, a twin track approach will need to be adopted. This will involve:

- a universal multi-agency referral system to be used across the city by frontline staff linked to other key initiatives, or used in targeted neighbourhoods to support customers to access a wide range of preventative services including affordable warmth, and
- a specialised referral pathway specifically for the referral of clients with an existing health condition used by the health and social care integrated teams.

This proposed approach was agreed by the Executive Board.

Position reported in November 2012:

A twin track approach is being developed for the City.

The first of this twin track approach consists of the Hotspots scheme which is being promoted to all frontline workers across Leeds. This scheme is a universal referral system into the Hotspots scheme which provides a wide range of advice and support around energy efficiency measures. Where MARS (Multi agency referral scheme) is in operation, currently in Hyde Park, frontline workers are referring people into energy saving advice via the Hotspots Scheme

The second of the twin track approaches is the Warm Homes Service/Energy Champion scheme. This scheme is a specialised referral system specifically developed for people with long term health conditions. People whose health conditions are exacerbated by living in cold damp conditions are identified and referred into the Warm Homes Service scheme by trained Energy Champions.

Position reported in October 2013:

A twin track approach has been developed for the City.

The first of this twin track approach consists of the Hotspots scheme which is being used by frontline workers across Leeds. Hotspots is currently undergoing a re-tendering process which may affect how referrals are handled, therefore we are not actively promoting the scheme, although it is still being used by existing referrers. Once the re-tendering has been completed, the scheme will be re-launched to new and existing member organisations including those in the voluntary sector.

This scheme is a universal referral system into the Hotspots scheme which provides a wide range of advice and support around energy efficiency measures, fire safety and security.

Where MARS (Multi agency referral scheme) is in operation, currently in Hyde Park with plans to roll out to Middleton and Bramley, frontline workers are referring people into MARS with onward referrals to the Hotspots Scheme. (This is being led by Customer Access and Adult Social Care - Health and Wellbeing)

The second of the twin track approaches is the Warm Homes Service/Energy Champion scheme. This scheme is a fast track, specialised referral system specifically developed for people with long term health conditions. People whose health conditions are exacerbated by living in cold damp conditions are identified and referred into the Warm Homes Service scheme by trained Energy Champions.

Environment Policy Team and Public Health agree that the twin track approach adopted in Leeds is effective. It provides a universal referral scheme through Hotspots for all frontline workers in Leeds and a fast track referral scheme for health and social care staff, targeting people with existing health conditions. These 2 referral schemes continue to run side by side and complement each other.

The West Yorkshire Hotspots scheme continues to provide an effective and simple mechanism for partner organisations to refer vulnerable households to energy efficiency, income maximisation and home safety advice. However, due to changes in the type of grants available to householders and the amount of support that is presently available to the scheme from the central advice provider/ administrator (currently Yorkshire Energy Services), the West Yorkshire Hotspots partners are undertaking a retendering process for the scheme advice provider/administrator. As part of this process, we are reviewing the contractual relationship between West Yorkshire Hotspots and the advice provider to ensure that the scheme remains as effective as possible for householders.

The Warm Homes Service/Energy Champion scheme continues to provide an effective service for people with existing long term health conditions. During 12/13 the Warm Homes Service received 86 referrals from Leeds Community Health Care Energy Champions, exceeding the target of 55 referrals as stated in the contract.

As stated in recommendation 9, increasing referrals into Fuel poverty has been raised at the Better Lives Board by the Director of Integration and agreed as a priority. Public Health have offered to extend training of Energy champions to other members of the IHSCTs.

Current position:

The Leeds Energy Champions scheme continues to provide a means for front line health and social care staff to refer vulnerable residents suffering from cold related illness to heating improvements through the Warm Homes Service. This is backed up by a limited amount of funding available for heating improvements through the discretionary fuel poverty fund as well as funding from LCC Public Health and some of the clinical commissioning groups as part of annual winter warmth campaigns.

We had developed a twin track approach to referrals with voluntary sector organisations using the West Yorkshire Hotspots card scheme, however, our Hotspots provider has withdrawn from handling Hotspots referrals as these no longer fit in with their social obligation to provide impartial affordable warmth advice. Hotspots referrals are still being actioned directly by the partnership however, we are currently seeking a long term partner to handle queries for the Hotspots scheme. To this end, we recently tried to develop a proposal for the LCC contact centre to handle Hotspots referrals and general energy efficiency advice, however, the cost we were quoted to run this service was prohibitively expensive.

We still cooperate with the MARS project in areas as and when this is rolled out, however, with the intermittent availability of funding and reduced scope of measures currently available through national energy efficiency schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation, we would be wary of adopting this on a City wide basis currently, as we would most likely be unable to match the expectations of referred households with the resources for improvements.

We also work to ensure that local schemes such as the Patient Empowerment Scheme, currently operating through the West Leeds CCG will allow GP's and other medical staff to refer households into the Warm Homes Service where appropriate.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 13 - In promoting future based schemes aimed at achieving affordable warmth we recommend that the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods works closely with the Head of Communications and Marketing to develop an appropriate framework to assist in encouraging greater take up of such schemes.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods in July 2012):

The Fuelsavers team in Environment and Neighbourhoods have worked closely with Corporate Communications team (and Yorkshire Energy Services, the contractor) to develop and deliver a communications plan to support Wrap Up Leeds. The communications approach has led to over 5,000 installed measures to date and the effectiveness of different channels is being monitored and will be evaluated at scheme end. The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods agrees to work closely with the Communications Team to use the lessons learnt to help develop a communications framework based on delivery of the Green Deal/ECO. This framework can then be used to co-ordinate the publicity of future domestic energy efficiency and affordable warmth schemes.

Position reported in November 2012:

The Fuelsavers Team in Environment and Neighbourhoods and Corporate Communications continue to work closely to deliver the Wrap Up Leeds communications plan which has so far led to the installation of over 7300 measures.

The Fuelsavers Team and Corporate Communications will be working closely with NHS Airedale, Bradford and Leeds to develop a campaign to promote winter warmth over the coming winter period. This will include promoting schemes such as Warm Front, the Warm Homes Service, run by Care and Repair and the Green Doctor, run by Groundwork Leeds, to provide improved heating and insulation measures to vulnerable households.

Position reported in October 2013:

Environment And Neighbourhoods worked closely with the communications team to publicise all of our projects including Wrap Up Leeds, Wrap Up Leeds + and the Collective Fuel Switching Scheme. We also worked closely with NHS Leeds Public Health and communications to promote the 2012/13 winter warmth campaign and Warm Homes Healthy People Fund.

Both Environment and Neighbourhoods and Public Health are currently working with the communications team to plan publicity for the Wrap Up Leeds ECO scheme and the 2013/14 winter warmth campaign which incorporates priorities from the Cold Weather Plan. We are also undertaking an evaluation of the Collective Fuel Switching scheme (see recommendation 20) of which communications will be one of the key areas.

Current position:

The communications team are closely involved in all stages of planning and executing our energy efficiency schemes, including Wrap Up Leeds ECO, Green Deal Communities and are similarly involved in the forthcoming City Region Green Deal/ECO scheme. In addition, Environment and Housing and Public Health work closely with the Communications team and other teams within the Council to undertake cold weather planning, involving the promotion of consistent messages on affordable warmth and keeping warm in winter across the Council.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 16 - That the Director of Public Health in Leeds works closely with the Clinical Commissioning Groups to look at the potential of providing longer term funding to maintain the existing Warm Homes Service (which has been partially funded by the time limited Department of Health Warm Homes Healthy People scheme) administered by Care and Repair

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Public Health in July 2012):

The Scrutiny report highlights the need for a partnership approach to align funding for preventative care in terms of tackling category 1 hazards such as excess cold. NHS Airedale, Bradford and Leeds will be working with Clinical Commissioning Groups to progress the Winter Plan 12/13 and to implement the Department of Health Cold Weather Plan. The Cold Weather Plan aims to prepare for, alert people to and prevent the major avoidable effects of winter on people's health. The Director of Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups will consider whether the Warm Homes Service, administered by Care and Repair, could be funded as part of this winter planning process.

Position reported in November 2012:

The Winter Plan for Leeds has been developed through the Urgent Care Stakeholder group incorporating priorities from the Cold Weather Plan. NHS Leeds has identified resource for 2012/13 to strengthen existing activity within the Third sector to reduce the hazardous effects of cold on vulnerable people.

As part of Winter Plan, Leeds City Council, with support from NHS Leeds Public Health and CCGs have submitted a proposal to Department of Health 'Warm Homes Healthy People fund' for Third sector organisations to provide energy efficiency measures to vulnerable people. The outcome of this bid will be communicated by the beginning of November.

This proposal outlines activity that will increase energy saving advice and measures to vulnerable people through The Warm Homes Service, Groundwork and Leeds Community Foundation Trust. The outcome of this funding bid will be communicated in November 2012

Position reported in October 2013:

Leeds City Council application for the Warm Homes Healthy People fund (November 12) supported by NHS Leeds Public Health and Leeds CCGs was successful and Leeds was allocated 199K (details outlined in recommendation 18) for 12/13 winter warmth activity as part of the Winter planning process. An evaluation has been completed by Leeds Metropolitan University, the findings of which were positive in relation to impact and patient experience.

The 13/14 Winter Plan for Leeds has been developed through the Urgent Care Stakeholder group, incorporating priorities from the Cold Weather Plan.

Leeds City Council Public Health have worked with CCGs to identify CCG funding to strengthen existing activity within the Third sector to reduce the hazardous effects of cold on vulnerable people. Leeds North and South & East CCGs have identified 50K each as a one off payment to strengthen activity for 13/14. Discussions are on-going with Leeds West CCG.

We have been notified that the Department of Health 'Warm Homes Healthy People fund' for Third sector organisations to provide winter warmth measures to vulnerable people will no longer be available. Public Health are currently exploring alternative funding opportunities to enable this activity to take place.

Current position:

Leeds Health Protection Board has been established during 2014 and all local partners from health are represented at this Board which is a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Cold weather and associated with this, fuel poverty, is explicitly one of the local priorities and the Board will ensure that this work remains a priority for the future.

The Office of the Director of Public Health has committed 200K recurrent funding and personnel to ensuring that vulnerable people are identified and targeted with high impact interventions to ensure that they stay safe and warm over winter. This includes funding for the Warm Homes Service as well as other services across Leeds to support vulnerable people.

NHS Leeds South and East CCG and NHS Leeds North CCG each allocated £50,000 to Care and Repair to provide an enhanced Warm Homes Service covering their localities in the financial year 2013 / 14.

NHS Leeds South and East CCG have agreed to provide 75K non recurrent funding for Warm Homes Service (50K) and Green Doctor (25K) for financial year 14/15. Leeds North CCG is planning to provide 50K recurrent funding for the Warm Homes Service.

NHS Leeds West CCG has commissioned a Patient Empowerment Programme for West/North West patients to be delivered by BARCA Leeds. The programme will increase awareness, support and access to existing local services, including those supporting people during cold weather, to improve patient's health and wellbeing.

We recommend that this work is monitored through the Cold Weather Partnership Group to ensure that commissioned services continues to be embedded in mainstream activity.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board

Recommendation 18 - That the Director of Public Health in Leeds works with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups to begin developing and exploring opportunities to lever in financial support for a broader programme of preventative measures aimed at tackling the hazard of excess cold across the city.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Public Health in July 2012):

The Director of Public Health in Leeds agrees to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups to begin to develop and explore opportunities to lever in financial support. This work will form part of the winter planning process to prevent the major avoidable effects of winter on peoples' health.

Position reported in November 2012:

The Health Improvement Board held a discussion on fuel poverty and explored potential opportunities to lever in financial support for a broader programme of work.

It was agreed at the last meeting to submit a joint proposal to the Department of Health Warm Homes Healthy People supported by CCGs, LCC and NHS Leeds. Other opportunities will be explored as they arise.

Position reported in October 2013:

The Warm Homes Health People bid (Nov 12), was successful and 199K was allocated by the DOH to resource winter wellbeing initiatives in Leeds (12/13). In addition to this Leeds Public Health allocated a further 171K to the Warm Homes Healthy People programme for allocation to the most vulnerable in Leeds.

Evaluation of impact has just been completed by Leeds Metropolitan University with positive outcomes. A high level of demand for the services was experienced, with targeted interventions reaching vulnerable people. The evaluation recommends that similar schemes should be run in the future.

Leeds City Council Public Health have worked with CCGs to identify CCG funding to strengthen existing activity within the Third sector to reduce the hazardous effects of cold on vulnerable people. Leeds North and South CCGs have identified 50K each as a one off payment to strengthen activity for 13/14. Discussions are on-going with Leeds West CCG. (As outlined in recommendation 16)

We have received notification that the Department of Health 'Warm Homes Healthy People fund' 2013, for Third sector organisations to provide energy efficiency measures to vulnerable people will no longer be available. Public Health are currently exploring alternative funding opportunities to enable this activity to take place.

Current position:

The Office of the Director Of Public Health has identified 200K recurrent funding and is currently in the process of commissioning organisations across Leeds to support vulnerable people with winter wellbeing interventions.

In addition to this Public Health have been working with CCGs to develop fuel poverty programmes. NHS Leeds CCGs are now all providing financial support for broader programmes of preventative measures aimed at tackling the hazard of excess cold across the city. (see response to Recommendation 16)

Leeds CCGs are currently developing winter work programmes which will include varying levels of activity depending on population need. This includes activity to encourage uptake of the flu immunisation, extended GP availability over the winter period, practice reviews of specific patient groups and supporting citywide voluntary sector programmes such as Hospital 2 Home service (Age UK and Red Cross).

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

Recommendation 19 - That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods leads on developing a strategy with key partners, including the CAB and Advice Leeds, for undertaking benefit checks on an annual basis accompanied with a service offer for conducting fuel tariff checks.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods in July 2012):

Over the years, Environment and Neighbourhoods has cooperated with organisations such as Welfare Rights and CAB through the Affordable Warmth Partnership and various projects to provide vulnerable residents with both income maximisation and fuel poverty advice. The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods agrees to work with Welfare Rights, CAB and Advice Leeds to develop a strategy for undertaking annual benefits checks and offering fuel tariff checks.

Position reported in November 2012:

The Fuelsavers Team has developed a pilot project with the CAB network to offer joint fuel tariff, debt and income maximisation advice over the winter period. We have requested funding for this project as part of our Warm Homes Healthy People bid from the Department of Health, and we expect to find out whether we have been successful towards the end of October.

Position reported in October 2013:

The Environment Policy Team undertook a successful pilot project with Leeds and Chapeltown CAB which provided fuel bill and income maximisation advice to householders in Leeds. We are looking at ways of developing an on-going project in the future and are feeding our finding back to the Advice Services Review and contributing to the service specification for the new advice service in Leeds.

We will continue to offer training and support to the Advice Leeds network.

Current position:

The successful project to provide combined income maximisation and fuel bill advice undertaken by Chapeltown CAB, was repeated over the 2013/14 winter period using Public Health's Cold Weather Plan budgets. Arrangements are being made to run the project again as part of the 2014/15 winter warmth campaign, again using Public Health funding. Our ambition is to provide such a service all year round, should funding be identified.

In addition, the Green Doctor scheme run by Groundwork Leeds, successfully bid for funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Big Energy Saving Network two years running and this has enabled them to provide detailed fuel bill and income maximisation advice directly to households as well as training staff and volunteers from other organisations to do the same.

We continue to offer training and support to the Advice Leeds network.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board

Recommendation 20 - That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods leads on undertaking a cost-benefit and risk analysis for the Council to bulk purchase domestic heating fuel for householders. The findings of this analysis should be reported back to the Executive Board and Scrutiny for consideration within 3 months of the South Holland documents becoming available.

Formal Response (provided by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods in July 2012):

Environment and Neighbourhoods has recently been in contact with a number of bulk fuel purchase schemes, including South Holland, in order to undertake a comparative analysis of the various proposals. The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods agrees to develop proposals for a bulk fuel purchase scheme that also delivers energy efficiency improvements to participating households. This will be presented to the Executive Board and Scrutiny Committee within three months of the South Holland documents becoming available or earlier.

Position reported in November 2012:

South Holland have not yet published their documents. We are in the process of evaluating the best approach to take with the scheme. We are gathering feedback from existing pilot projects, such as those in South Lakeland, and Cornwall and will be reporting on the best approach to take to the scrutiny committee, as well as developing a business case in the near future.

A funding opportunity has recently been announced by DECC to help coordinate and conduct a bulk fuel purchasing initiative. We are currently developing a proposal ahead of the 30th November deadline and will take a formal proposal to Executive Board for approval in December 2012.

Position reported in October 2013:

Leeds ran a pilot collective fuel switch in early 2013 which was funded by the DECC Cheaper Energy Together Fund. This was run in conjunction with neighbouring local authorities in Leeds City Region and Community Energy Direct. Over six thousand householders registered for the switch with 618 switching and saving on average £171 per annum.

We had intended to undertake a collective fuel purchase in order to provide a below market tariff for householders, with an individual sweep to ensure that all householders have the best possible tariff.

Unfortunately, having made their initial enquiries with the market, our switching agent, Which? informed us that they would be unable to obtain a below market rate through a bulk purchase. Signed up clients were therefore provided with a quotation based on the individual sweep of the market.

We are undertaking an evaluation of the scheme which will take into account the experience of other schemes across the Country. This will enable us to collate best practice and design the next phase with a view to increasing participation across the City.

Current position:

Following the pilot project undertaken with Community Energy Direct, we have found that schemes across the country have largely unable to obtain a below market rate. Additionally, DECC have worked to simplify the range of energy tariffs that energy companies are allowed to offer.

Therefore we are currently working with the Core Cities Low Carbon and Energy Portfolio Group to develop Core Cities owned energy suppliers, or formal relationships with smaller energy companies, through which we aim to offer stable and fair energy tariffs to households.

In the meantime, OFGEM has recently launched its Go Energy Shopping website which provides step by step guidance on how to compare energy tariffs, as well as a list of OFGEM accredited switching websites, which we are promoting on our website and in our communications material.

Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*