

Priority 2

Improving Housing Quality

2.2 Energy Efficiency

The two elements of the fuel poverty definition are the cost of energy and household income. The Council has limited capacity to control these two variables and therefore the approach is focused on improving the energy efficiency of housing. The 'Leeds Standard' sets out high standards of energy efficiency for new housing. Bringing existing council housing up to the 'Leeds Standard' would also significantly improve housing. It is hoped that heat generated by the Veolia Incinerator can be piped to the city centre to create 'District Heating' systems including in council housing.

The targeted approach, reflected in the Leeds Neighbourhood Approach, will serve to eliminate housing hazards including excess cold. There are a number of national and local initiatives, including [Warm Homes](#), Green Doctor and Green Deal, to help vulnerable people improve the energy efficiency of their homes including through grant assistance.

Fuel Poverty

- The new definition of fuel poverty is where a household incurs higher than average fuel costs, and therefore has a residual income below the poverty line
- Approximately 127,500 Leeds households are in fuel poverty
- Fuel poverty disproportionately affects older and disabled people, BME households and families with children
- Fuel poverty is more common in the private rented sector

Case Study: Warm Homes and Green Doctor

The Care and Repair Warm Homes initiative helps people with long-term health problems, exacerbated by poor private housing, who have limited income with heating system repairs and home insulation. The service aims to help 350 people per year. The Green Doctor service, run by Groundwork Leeds, helps people with energy advice and improvements including energy efficient light bulbs, pipe lagging and draught proofing. The service aims to visit 350 homes and make 240 improvements.

Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)

SAP relates to the energy rating of a building, and is expressed on a scale of 1-100, where the higher the number, the better the rating.

2016 Target – all homes minimum 65 rating.

Current ratings (January 2015):
Council Housing 67
Housing Association 70
Private Sector 55

Actions

- Public Health to run winter warmth advice programme
- Explore the feasibility of applying the 'Leeds Standard' to existing council housing
- Target selected private housing to eliminate excess cold
- Develop 'District Housing' plans
- Procure contractor(s) to deliver energy efficiency improvement programme across Leeds City Region