

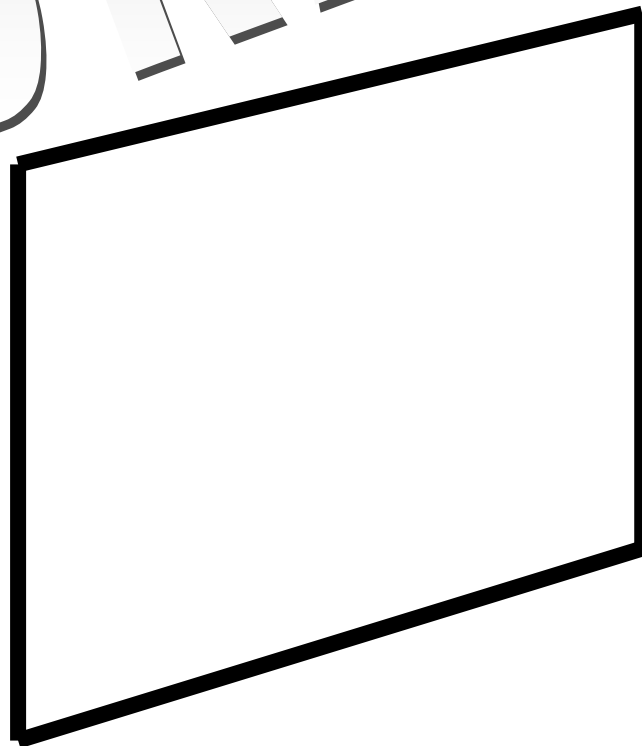
Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy

2007 to 2016

DRAFT

Fuel Costs

Income



Energy Efficiency

Health

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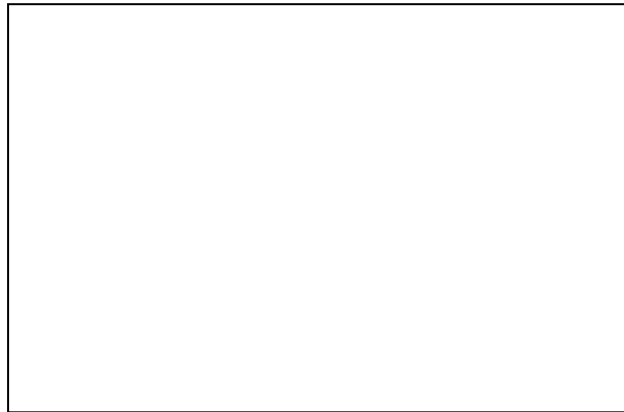
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10. Glossary of terms

HNS	National Health Service
ALMOS	Arms Length Management Organisations
COP	Code of Practice
SAP	Standard Assessment Procedure
HHSRS	Housing Health and Safety Rating Standard
HIA	Home Improvement Assistance
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
AWS	Affordable Warmth Strategy
ELC	Energy Lead Councillor
NTGG	Narrowing the Gap Group
SB	Scrutiny Board
FAB	Fuelsavers Advisory Board
HECA	Home Energy Conservation Act
RSL	Registered Social Landlord



Picture

FOREWORD

Affordable Warmth, a Right not a Privilege

I am very pleased to be able to welcome the 2007 publication of the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Most of us take for granted our ability to live in comfortable well heated surroundings, but for some, particularly the more disadvantaged members of the community, keeping a home warm during the winter months is a real struggle. Further to this, substantive increases in energy costs over the last two years have led to an unprecedented rise in the number of low incomes households who cannot afford to heat their home's and are now defined as 'fuel poor'.

The Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy seeks to redress this ever growing affordable warmth imbalance, through identifying tangible on the ground work to direct and support people towards housing improvement, income maximisation advice and ensure that mechanisms are put into place to help those most in need.

The Council does and will continue to play a key role, supported by its many local partners, in supporting Government's objective to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016. However, numerous other national organisations already contribute to supporting these aims and it is Leed's endeavour that we shall work with as many these organisations, as is necessary, to bring about local and lasting change for the better.

Together all those concerned with the health and wellbeing of people who struggle to keep their homes warm welcome this Strategy and support achieving the aim of reducing fuel poverty.

Cllr Mark Harris

Digital signature

Executive Member with responsibility for 'Narrowing the Gap'

THE LEEDS AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY

2. INTRODUCTION

A warm dry home is a basic necessity of life. However, far too many homes are poorly insulated and have expensive and inefficient heating systems. Coupled with low incomes this leads to the problem of fuel poverty. Leeds has established a national reputation for action in tackling this problem. However in 2006, based on the latest figures, it is estimated that 37% of private sector Leeds households are in fuel poverty with a slightly lower proportion understood to be suffering this form of deprivation in public sector housing.

The Affordable Warmth Strategy for Leeds sets out a co-ordinated approach to address the problems of cold, damp homes. This strategy has been developed in 2006 with local partners and is the result of consultation with a wide range of service providers and interested groups.

The successful implementation of this strategy will increase the quality of life for the residents of Leeds by improving the health, social and financial well being of some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

What is Fuel Poverty?

The lack of affordable warmth is known as '**fuel poverty**'. Affordable warmth is the ability to achieve sufficient warmth within the home. A fuel poor household is one that cannot afford to keep adequately warm at reasonable cost. The most widely accepted definition is "a household that needs to spend more than 10% of income to heat the home to an adequate standard" i.e. to a level of warmth consistent with maintaining health and well being that is; 21 degrees centigrade in main living areas and 18 degrees centigrade in other areas, of the home.

Importantly the definition focuses on what people need to spend rather than what they actually spend on heating. This is because fuel poor households have to balance the need for fuel and other essentials, so often they cannot afford to heat their home properly. Fuel poverty is clearly linked to general poverty and deprivation and is firmly associated with:

- Low income and debt
- Poor household insulation standards
- Inefficient or expensive heating systems
- Lack of access or availability of affordable fuel and/or tariff options
- Under-occupation of and the size of the home
- Householder behaviour

In addition, other factors must be considered as contributing to fuel poverty. Certain households have a greater requirement for heat and hot water than the average household because they may be spending longer periods of time at home. This might be those households which include pensioners, those with long-term illnesses or disabilities, the unemployed and households with young children.

These households tend to be on lower incomes, although not necessarily in receipt of state benefit, and at the same time they may have less access to capital to improve their homes or appliances. In terms of fuel poverty these households are deemed 'vulnerable' and more than half of all households fall into this category in the UK.

The Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy aims to assist its residents to move out of fuel poverty and into affordable warmth and will therefore facilitate support to improve the health and well-being of some of the city's more vulnerable households.

Health and Wellbeing

The links between fuel poverty, poor housing and ill health are well established.

Cold homes may exacerbate problems associated with cardiovascular illness and the onset of stroke or heart attacks, whilst damp and poorly ventilated homes are associated with a range of respiratory and allergic conditions such as bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma etc. Cold homes may also impact on conditions such as rheumatism or arthritis and may affect those people with poor mobility, thus increasing the risk of falls and other household accidents.

Living in a cold, damp and poorly ventilated home is not only uncomfortable but may also be stressful in itself and impact negatively on the mental health of householders. This may be compounded by anxiety about high bills, fuel debt or other fuel poverty related factors. The educational attainment of school age children may also be adversely affected if they do not have a warm space to study and are forced to share general living space or need to take time off from school due to cold-related illness.

Householders who are permanently sick or disabled and unable to work may require their heating to be on more than employed householders as they are likely to spend more time at home. Consequently their fuel bills will be higher whilst their incomes may be lower and thus these households are more likely to be in fuel poverty.

The Leeds 2006 Fuel Poverty Survey showed that households containing the following vulnerable groups could not afford to heat their home

- 60.5% of those recovering from a long-term illness,
- 52.9% of disabled
- 38.7% of pensioner households

Overall 13.8% of households stated that their health or that of their family was affected by cold conditions. In terms of tenure this represents

- 22.2%, in the private rented
- 21.8% housing association
- 12.3% owner occupiers

3. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES

The Government has recognised fuel poverty as a UK wide problem. In 2001 the Government launched its UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, which sets out actions to be taken to eradicate the problem of fuel poverty within 10-16 years. The overall objective is the eradication of fuel poverty by 2016, with an interim target to reduce the number of vulnerable households by 2010. This builds upon national strategies for housing, energy, health, poverty and social inclusion.

The Yorkshire and Humber Housing Board published 'Make Fuel Poverty History' a Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan in September 2006. This document gives recognition to the fact that the region has the second highest level of Fuel Poverty in the UK and its action plan supports the aims and objectives of the national strategy. The Regional Housing Strategy includes targets to increase the average home energy grade, (SAP) or Standard Assessment Procedure to SAP 65 for all homes in the region by 2016, and reducing the percentage of homes with a SAP rating of less than 30 to below 1% in public sector and 2% in private sector housing over the term of the strategy.

The key role which local authorities and other local agencies play in the co-ordination and delivery of work to eradicate fuel poverty was identified in the Action Plan. In recent years many local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber have worked in partnership to develop affordable warmth strategies, which enable them to meet corporate and community plan objectives in a systematic way. The development of a regional approach to the provision of affordable warmth provides mechanisms for key regional players to make links between national policy and local action and to support local agencies in a strategic and co-ordinated way. It was noted that there is a huge benefit to be gained by ensuring that different regional strategies are effectively integrated and it is for this reason that the regional plan was developed through partnership between local practitioners and regional agencies. The regional plan was in turn structured to follow the key themes:

1. Influencing Affordable Warmth Policy, Strategy, Funding and Delivery in the Region
2. Training and Awareness Raising
3. Supporting Local Affordable Warmth Work
4. Improving Health and Well Being
5. Monitoring and Evaluating of Action Plans

It is anticipated that the Regional Plan will, over time, provide the framework for all other local plans to work to.

Further to this one of the four key goals of the government's Energy White Paper 2003 is 'to ensure every home has access to adequate and affordable warmth'.

The Housing Act 2004 includes a target to improve the energy efficiency of housing by 20% by 2010. This act also provided powers requiring the implementation of the following, all of which can be used to support energy efficiency measures:

- Housing Health and Safety Rating System that recognises cold and dampness as extreme household risks
- Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation which provides an opportunity to make energy efficiency a license provision
- Home Information Packs which require an Energy Performance Certificate

The health sector also has its own legislation which supports energy efficiency and affordable warmth:

- The NHS Plan White Paper 2000 has a priority that aims to help people live independently at home and reduce bed blocking
- National Service Frameworks aims to reduce risk factors for coronary heart disease, improve care for the elderly and those with long-term health conditions
- Public Health White Paper 2004 “Choosing Health” recognises that poor housing has detrimental health impacts
- Public Health Delivery Plan 2005 refers to eliminating fuel poverty to help achieve two of its priorities - Tackling health inequalities and promoting healthy and active life among older people

4. WHAT ARE WE DOING IN LEEDS?

The following agencies are currently operating in Leeds to address issues around affordable warmth and fuel poverty.

Fuelsavers

Leeds City Council manages the Fuelsavers project. This project which was doubled in size during 2006, provides free and impartial advice to all Leeds residents on insulation and or heating improvement measures. Fuelsavers work with a range of partners, including NHS, the ALMOs, Environmental Health, Social Services and the Energy Providers to implement interventions to meet the Governments Fuel Poverty Target. Through this project residents are able to access a range of energy efficiency grants:

- The Government’s Warm Front Grant, this provides heating and or insulation improvement to those living in private rented or owner occupier homes and on certain state benefits.
- Fuel Company insulation Grants, under the Energy Efficiency Commitment Grant Regime.
- Npower’s Health Through Warmth Scheme to provide heating and insulation to households with a medical need.

Fuelsavers also provide training, briefings, information sheets, media releases, technical support and lead on new initiatives to bring about either energy efficiency improvement and or fuel poverty eradication. Some work also covers Climate Change and Carbon dioxide mitigation.

Leeds ALMOS

Leeds Arms Length Management Agencies are responsible for the improvement of what was LCC Housing Stock. It is the responsibility of each managed housing group to improve their stock to the “decency standard” which includes the provision of adequate heating. Key interventions include:

- Provision of central heating through the Heat Lease initiative
- Renewal of old and inefficient heating systems
- Insulation programmes to increase the energy efficiency of homes
- Provision of double glazing to homes with old and defective single glazed windows

Environmental Health

Leeds City Council have new enforcement powers introduced by the Housing Act 2004 which enable the Authority to require improvements to either or both the heating system or insulation within a dwelling. Should an inspection determine that excess cold is a Category 1 hazard the local authority has a duty under Housing Health and Safety Hazard Rating System (HHSRS) to take action to either remove or reduce the hazard.

This power is particularly significant within the **private rented sector** where: Incidence of fuel poverty is higher than other housing sectors. These enforcement powers will require reluctant landlords to ensure dwellings are provided with suitable heating systems and adequate levels of insulation (with or without access to grants such as Warm Front). Whilst HHSRS is a mechanism to remove hazards from a dwelling it is not able to directly address either energy efficiency or fuel poverty but it clearly contributes to such strategies particularly in the private rented sector.

Environmental Health also offer Home Improvement Assistance (HIA) in the form of an equity release loan to vulnerable owner occupiers. HIA ensures properties are free of any Category 1 hazard under HHSRS including excess cold but is also available to enable eligible applicants to have assistance to improve their dwellings to the "decency" standard which requires improved levels of thermal comfort.

The HIA process has links to the Energy Unit to ensure the most appropriate assistance is accessed for eligible applicants. Care and Repair (a local home improvement agency) can also offer financial assistance of up to £1000 for vulnerable people over the age of 60 to undertake repairs to their property which may include heating systems.

Registered Social Landlords

As for the ALMO's, each RSL is responsible for the improvement of their own stock. This includes set standards for upgrading poorly performing properties in terms of energy efficiency and identification of those tenants most at risk.

The NHS

The main role of NHS agencies is identification and referral of patients living with conditions likely to be caused or exacerbated by a cold damp home; regardless of tenure. In addition the NHS delivers a range of interventions designed to maximise

health and reduce winter related illness and death (eg flu immunisation, Keep Warm / Keep Well). The NHS may also have a role in delivering simple energy efficiency messages; through it's staff and at it's premises.

Social Services

The main role for Social Services is the identification, referral and monitoring of vulnerable individuals living in cold damp conditions which are likely to exacerbate their illness, disability and impact on their health and well being. Social Services are in contact with the most vulnerable sections of the community, including children, vulnerable adults and older people. Social Services play an important role in early identification and intervention of vulnerable fuel poor households.

Voluntary and community sector agencies.

The main role for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) agencies is the identification, referral and monitoring of vulnerable individuals living in cold damp conditions which are likely to exacerbate their illness, disability and impact on their health and well being. In addition, the VCS sector has a significant responsibility in terms of advocacy, both for individuals and groups, to ensure the necessary improvements are made.

Benefits and welfare rights agencies

There are a number of Welfare Rights agencies with responsibility for improving uptake of benefits across the whole population or segments of it. A critical intervention within this strategy will be ensuring referral to welfare rights services to ensure income is maximised.

Fuel Poverty monitoring

To ascertain year on year fuel poverty data for Leeds, an annual survey of 20,000 houses is undertaken, recording the energy performance of dwellings within the district. As part of this survey households are asked a range of perceptual questions seeking comment on their ability to keep warm and generally healthy within their current income. The findings of the 2006 fuel poverty private sector survey are detailed at **Appendix I** with the fuel poverty by ward ranking noted at **Appendix II**

The survey data suggests, that for the private sector, the 2006 baseline for fuel poverty is at or around 37% of all households and 28% of vulnerable households (those which include pensioners the long term ill the disabled and households with children). This exceptionally high level is due in the main to a six year fuel cost increase of 110% for gas and 60% for electricity

Fuel poverty is not currently logged in the public sector but it is estimated to be at or lower than private sector fuel poverty, due to the high level of energy efficiency housing investment taking place in this tenure sector.

There are differences in the fuel poverty methodologies used by different authorities and The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs plus Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber have been approached requesting support for a national fuel poverty monitoring methodology and framework. Until this is forthcoming Leeds will continue to use the best known methodologies to track the

level of fuel poverty in the City. The current data sets have been assessed against all known methodologies with a 3% variance noted between the nearest and similar data recovery mechanisms.

5. BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING AFFORDABLE WARMTH

Organisational

Many organisations have similar aims and objectives but to work in isolation puts them at a disadvantage in terms of development, access to resources, and the levels of out come which can be achieved through synergy and working in partnership. This strategy aims to bring together likeminded partners through the Affordable Warmth COP, enabling them to sign up to the level of support they are comfortable with and able to achieve. FAB will also look to support and encourage partners to embed affordable warmth activities within their own strategies and action plans, bringing together disparate activities to focus on affordable warmth actions and create additionally. Rasing the profile of fuel poverty to encourage partners to participate in the strategy will be a key activity.

Educational

There are educational barriers in terms of the households in fuel poverty not being aware of the help which is available or low or no cost energy saving techniques. Also the agencies which access these homes and residents, firstly being aware of fuel poverty, then having the knowledge and information to help or refer these households. Landlords owners and agents being unaware of their responsibilities under the HHSRS. Also the help which may be available to them to improve cold and damp homes. The strategy and action plans include activities to provide training and information to partners which can be cascaded to others.

Financial

There are financial barriers in terms of the fuel poor and their ability to undertake improvements to their homes. The access to capital and revenue funding for agencies supporting affordable warmth activities is increasingly hard to come by. The strategy will enable benefit of the economies of scale which can be achieved through bulk contracts and joint working. The strategy will also support the pooling of funding and joint bids for capital allocations by agencies signing up to the COP.

Evaluation and data

Gathering, evaluating and having available data to promote affordable warmth activities across all partner agencies will show the true level of activity in Leeds, whilst highlighting areas which need further attention. Provisions for collecting, processing and evaluating data are already in place with the HECA monitoring undertaken by Fuelsavers on behalf of the council. Base line data is available on which to base year on year targets with partners, monitoring of achievements in terms of referrals and supporting householders to the implementation of measures is also already undertaken with current partners. This will need to be refined and

expanded as new partners sign up to the COP, with the information being used to review the strategy, evaluate projects and make submissions for further funding.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY FOR LEEDS

Why develop an affordable warmth strategy?

Leeds established a fuel poverty strategy in 2001 as part of its requirement under the Warmer Homes Act 2000 and 2001 revision to monitor and facilitate fuel poverty reduction with its administrative area. The monitoring of this Strategy is included within the Authority's Home Energy Conservation Act Annual Reporting mechanism to Government. The Strategy was noted as being an 'in house' document lending itself more to public sector housing improvement rather than the alleviation of fuel poverty across all tenures. It was recognised that development of an holistic strategy would need to encompass all partner organisations to ensure that fuel poverty was fully addressed in all the sectors of Leeds housing.

How will the strategy benefit the residents of Leeds?

The Strategy will ensure that the problem of fuel poverty in Leeds can be dealt with in a planned and systematic way, providing a route to affordable warmth for residents across the District and a structure to regularly monitor and report to Government progress over time.

The installation of energy efficiency measures and the maximisation of residents' income will not only help to keep residents warm and reduce the risk of fuel poverty and ill health, but also help reduce heating bills and save money. This in turn will have a positive affect on the local economy as householders will have more money to spend. Fuel poverty is a crosscutting issue that impinges on an array of community problems the quality of life and health and wellbeing. An holistic approach is cost effective and enables the services of partner organisations to be more efficiently utilised to maximise the help that a resident can receive once they have been identified for assistance.

Consultation Workshops

The strategy has been formulated as a result of consultation with a wide range of local service providers and partners who attended workshops in October and November 2006. Workshop one looked at four subject headings

- Financial resources
- Health and well-being
- Housing improvement
- Householder identification and support

The feedback from the first workshop was compiled and ordered to form a list of aims, objectives and tasks, including the identification and prioritisation of activities that it was believed would support fuel poverty reduction in the City. Suggestions

were also put forward by participating agency representatives on how they believed they or other agencies might assist in the facilitation of actions to identify and in turn assist fuel poor households.

Workshop two was used to refine the findings of workshop one and further develop these under the following headings

- Housing improvement and resources
- Client identification and support
- An Affordable Warmth Code of Practice

A list of the attendees at the consultation workshops is attached at Appendix VI

The Affordable Warmth Code of Practice

The Affordable Warmth Code of Practice (COP) was developed with the objective of establishing a mechanism to allow organisations to publicly state their commitment to addressing fuel poverty in the City. The COP was in turn structured to highlight three levels of commitment, dependent upon the organisations structure. These are to either

- a. Level 1 (Identify clients and direct to support.)
- b. Level 2 (Identify clients and advise.)
- c. Level 3 (clients, advise and support.)

Organisations will also be asked to assist or direct households to support through the following comprehensive range objectives:

1. Householders or individuals requiring support shall be:
 - Identified
 - Directed to support and or advice
 - Or supported and advised
2. Staff shall be trained to:
 - Identify clients in fuel poverty
 - Direct to support and or advice
 - Support and advise
3. Technical staff should be skilled to:
 - Assess dwellings for the application of appropriate upgrades to address fuel poverty.
 - Balance Affordable Warmth provision against the need to limit environmentally damaging emissions from a given dwelling
4. The organisation shall encompass, where appropriate:
 - Affordable Warmth into all relevant strategies, policies and operational documents.
 - Business Plans shall include annual Affordable Warmth targets
 - Highlight all current Affordable Warmth support through its customer communication links and outlets.

- Give a commitment to work in partnership with Leeds City Council and all appropriate support agencies to jointly support the eradication of Fuel Poverty in the City of Leeds.

A copy of the COP is attached at **Appendix III** it is intended that this will be rolled out across the City overtime. Organisations being asked to sign up to the Code and in turn being placed on a public register on the Leeds City Council web site.

7. THE STRATEGY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

To engage and work with partners to:

achieve affordable warmth for all households in Leeds

meet the National and Regional Strategic Objectives by 2010 and 2016

establish a framework with reviewable objectives and targets to assist residents to move out of fuel poverty and into affordable warmth.

target primarily households with vulnerable occupiers

Objectives

To establish an Advisory Board to oversee the implementation of the Strategy

To establish a commitment to the strategy at a high level within the Council

To sign up partners to Affordable Warmth Code of Practice and to seek where ever possible to embed affordable warmth principals into their strategies and action plans

To develop and maintain an effective strategy performance monitoring and reporting system

To seek, assess and keep under review all financial or other resources available to support the provision of affordable warmth

To develop and deliver with partners an Affordable Warmth annual work plan.

8. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

The provision of affordable warmth has to encompass a wide range of service providers with specific skills and remits. Successful delivery of the strategy will depend heavily on the involvement of national and local organisations from all sectors and it is for this reason that this strategy framework has been developed in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders. Progress needs to be monitored and

the strategy needs to remain flexible with review and change over time. To enable this to happen the objectives have been further developed in the Strategy and draft Annual Action plans attached at **Appendices IV and V**. The Annual Action Plan will be used to identify the specific work of the Authority or others in facilitating a reduction in fuel poverty in the City.

The Strategy will be reviewed annually with work or initiatives covering the period April to March in the following year, up to and including March 2017. Both the Strategy and Annual Action Plans will be issued on the Leeds City Council Web site on <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/> and through a local search under Fuelsavers. It is proposed that any amendments to the Strategy and the Annual Action Plans be agreed by the Fuelsavers Advisory Board, Partner organisations and the Authority

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Private Sector 2006 Fuel Poverty Survey Information

Do you find it difficult to afford to heat your home?

Tenure	2006 Yes
Owner Occupier	34.0 ± 1.0 %
Housing Association	52.4 ± 4.0%
Privately Rented	51.6 ± 3.5%
All	36.7 ± 1.0% *
All Vulnerable	27.5 ± 1.0%

* See note page 6a with regard to Public Sector Fuel Poverty.

Do you feel that your health or that of your family's is affected by cold conditions in your home?

Tenure	2006 Yes
Owner Occupier	12.3 ± 0.8%
Housing Association	21.8 ± 3.4%
Privately Rented	22.2 ± 3.1%
All	13.8 ± 0.7%

Can you heat your home to a high enough temperature to feel comfortable?

Tenure	2006 No
Owner Occupier	7.0 ± 0.6%
Housing Association	13.5 ± 2.7%
Privately Rented	17.9 ± 2.8%
All	8.4 ± 0.6%

Do you find it difficult to afford to heat your home?

Weekly Income	Maximum Annual Income	2006 Yes
Less than £100	£5,200	70%
Between £101 - £150	£7,800	57%
Between £151 - £200	£10,400	55%
More than £200	N/A	25%

Do you find it difficult to afford to heat your home?

Use of Pre-payment Meter	2006 Yes
Gas or Electric	64.4 ± 4.3%

Do you find it difficult to afford to heat your home?

A member of the Household is:-	2006 Yes
Aged 16 or under	37.9 ± 2.1%
Aged 60 or over	38.7 ± 1.6%
Disabled	52.9 ± 2.9%
Recovering from a long term illness	60.5 ± 4.1%
In receipt of benefits	57.7 ± 2.3%

NB: All ± x% values are 95% confidence limits

Private Sector Fuel Poverty by Ward

Private Sector Difficulty Affording to Heat Your Home - 2006 Data				
Ward	Rank	% - Yes (Vulnerable)	% - Yes (Non Vulnerable)	% - Yes (Total)
Gipton and Harehills	33	51%	14%	65%
Hyde Park and Woodhouse	32	21%	37%	59%
Killingbeck and Seacroft	31	45%	8%	53%
Middleton Park	30	38%	14%	52%
Burmantofts and Richmond Hill	29	38%	12%	50%
Beeston and Holbeck	28	35%	14%	49%
City and Hunslet	27	32%	13%	45%
Armley	26	27%	17%	44%
Pudsey	25	31%	11%	42%
Ardsley and Robin Hood	24	34%	7%	41%
Morley South	23	34%	7%	41%
Bramley and Stanningley	22	31%	9%	41%
Chapel Allerton	21	27%	13%	40%
Kippax and Methley	20	30%	9%	39%
Farnley and Wortley	19	29%	8%	37%
Morley North	18	30%	7%	37%
Rothwell	17	26%	11%	36%
Otley and Yeadon	16	28%	8%	36%
Temple Newsam	15	29%	7%	36%
Cross Gates and Whinmoor	14	28%	7%	35%
Headingley	13	17%	18%	34%
Calverley and Farsley	12	27%	8%	34%
Kirkstall	11	23%	11%	34%
Moortown	10	25%	7%	32%
Guiselley and Rawdon	9	27%	6%	32%
Garforth and Swillington	8	26%	6%	32%
Weetwood	7	22%	9%	31%
Alwoodley	6	24%	6%	30%
Horsforth	5	22%	7%	28%
Roundhay	4	20%	6%	26%
Harewood	3	19%	4%	23%
Wetherby	2	19%	4%	23%
Adel and Wharfedale	1	20%	2%	22%
Total Private Sector Fuel Poverty Recorded as an Expression of the Householder 2006		27.5 ± 1.0%	9.2 ± 1.0%	36.7 ± 1.0%

Leeds Affordable Warmth

CODE OF PRACTICE

2007-2016



What is Fuel Poverty?

The definition of fuel poverty is a household where more than 10% of income is spent on total energy needs. Fuel poverty is caused by a number of issues including; low income, inadequate insulation and heating and high energy prices. It is estimated that for every 1% increase in the price of fuel, 40,000 more people nationally fall into fuel poverty. A householder who is fuel poor may generally live in cold, damp and unhealthy accommodation.

Fuel poverty in Leeds

Many Leeds residents suffer from this form of deprivation, although many could be helped to achieve affordable warmth assisted by agencies working in cooperation and partnership to identify and support households. The level of fuel poverty in Leeds in 2006 is estimated at 37% of (private sector) households, with 28% deemed to be vulnerable (pensioners, disabled, long term ill, households with young children). Leeds aims to assist government in reducing fuel poverty in vulnerable groups to the lowest achievable level by 2010. In addition to further facilitate the reduction of non vulnerable households in Fuel Poverty from by 2016. To that end, as part of the City's commitment to address fuel

poverty this organisation has agreed to the following Code of Practice:

The Code of Practice

This Organisation agrees to directing or supporting households to affordable warmth through the following mechanisms dependant upon our terms of reference:

1. Householders or individuals requiring support shall be:
 - Identified
 - Directed to support or advice
 - Or supported and advised
2. Staff shall be trained to:
 - Identify clients in fuel poverty
 - Direct to support and or advice
 - Support and advise
3. Technical staff should be skilled to:
 - Assess dwellings for the application of appropriate up-upgrades to address fuel poverty
 - Balance Affordable Warmth provision against the need to limit environmental emissions from a given dwelling

4. This organisation shall encompass where appropriate:
- Affordable Warmth into all relevant strategies, policies and operational documents.
 - Business Plans shall include where appropriate annual Affordable Warmth targets.
 - Highlight all current Affordable Warmth support through its customer communication links and outlets.
 - A commitment to work in partnership with Leeds City Council and all appropriate agencies to jointly support the eradication Fuel Poverty in the City of Leeds.

Please note: Organisations can elect to sign up to any or all elements of the code dependent upon their operational structure. This code does not form a contract with any individual or organisation to provide support or resources.

Organisations Name:
Address:
Tel:
E-mail
Signature
Date

A register of COP organisational can be found at www.Leeds.gov.uk/fuelsavers/

Return to:

Leeds City Council
Fuelsavers
Environmental Health Services
Millshaw Park Way
Leeds
LS11 0LS
Free phone: 0800 512012
www.Leeds.gov.uk/fuelsavers

LEEDS AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY – Action Plan, 2007 onwards.

APPENDIX (IV)

Objective	Task	Timescales	Outcome	Lead
1. Establish the coordination group to oversee the Strategy's implementation, revision and monitoring.	<p>Fuelsavers team and identified partners to establish coordination group.</p> <p>Maintain and review membership of FAB</p>	<p>April 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Fuelsavers Advisory Board (FAB) established to over see the Strategy's implementation.</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team</p>
2. Encourage high level commitment to the Strategy within Leeds City Council	<p>Submit the Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy to Executive Board in early 2007 for adoption.</p> <p>Continue with Energy Lead Councillor</p> <p>Establish regular progress meetings / review</p>	<p>February 2007</p> <p>April 2007</p> <p>February 2007</p>	<p>Council to adopt this Affordable Warmth Strategy (AWS)</p> <p>Single Member identified to lead and champion the strategy.</p> <p>High profile monitoring, maximising and maintaining Member awareness.</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team</p>
3. Ensure public and private sector partnership support is secured and maintained.	<p>Stimulate and maintain take up and ownership of City AWS objectives.</p> <p>Facilitate sign-up and report quarterly</p>	<p>From 2007 April and ongoing</p> <p>"</p>	<p>Partners signed up to the Code of Practice (COP)</p> <p>To encourage the integration of AWS objectives into LCC, partners strategies and individual action plans.</p>	<p>FAB, Lead Member, HTGG and partners</p>
4. Maintain performance and oversee/submit annual work programmes and reports.	<p>Annual reporting</p> <p>Develop further the 2007/8 Annual Action</p>	<p>From 2008 April</p> <p>From February 2007</p>	<p>FAB to review outcomes and report annually</p> <p>FAB to facilitate, assess and submit annual work plans</p>	<p>FAB and partners</p>

	Develop with partners annual action plan	April 2008 onwards	FAB to facilitate, assess and submit annual work plans.	FAB and partners
5. Identify and address gaps in funding to support AWS objectives. Encourage pooling of partnership resources both financial and otherwise to maximize impact of support for AWS objectives	Include the resource target sought in the annual work plan. Development and implementation of innovative funding regimes	From April 2007 Ongoing	Funding secured Funding, resources and additionally provided by pooling of resources	FAB Fuelsavers team and all other partners
6. Support all relevant partner agencies /organisations / groups to adopt affordable warmth strategies, plans and targets in their own right.	To work with all agencies in support of these objectives.	April 2007 ongoing	AWS strategies / plans established by partners with annual targets. AWS to be integrated into business or service plans with specific targets.	Fuelsavers team/FAB
7. Support all relevant agency/ organisations or groups to identify and refer for support fuel poor households Support all relevant agency / organisations or groups who are able to and have signed up to the COP to provide assistance to fuel poor households. To encourage all relevant	To work with all agencies in support of these objectives. " "	April 2007 ongoing April 2007 ongoing "	Partners / agencies establish annual targets to identify and refer for support fuel poor households. Partners / agencies establish annual targets to identify and assist fuel poor households. Annual Targets set	FAB Fuelsavers team and all other partners

<p>agency / organisations or groups to set and including annual targets to support AWS.</p>				<p>“</p>
<p>8. Provide training for all partners in energy awareness, customer identification and available support / assistance mechanisms. Encourage partners to where ever possible provide sustainability through cascade training to support AWS objectives.</p> <p>Partner agencies or organisations to establish annual staff training targets</p>	<p>Provision of training and support mechanisms set in place to provide regular updates on available assistance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Following sign up to COP</p>	<p>Training provided</p> <p>Internal cascade training provided by partner organisations</p> <p>Annual Targets set</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team/FAB</p> <p>All participating partners</p> <p>All participating partners</p>
<p>9. To establish, support or work in partnership with others to produce and or disseminate energy information into the community.</p>	<p>To facilitate and support networks and agreements at a local level</p>	<p>April 2007 onwards, following sign up to COP</p>	<p>Networks and agreements in place, to support, produce, and or disseminate information, by or through Partner agencies or organisations, into the community</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team/FAB and participating partners</p>
<p>10. To ensure income maximisation or benefits take up, through fast tracking or other support initiatives for householders in fuel poverty</p>	<p>To obtain agreement, establish support for, or partner others at a local level to achieve income maximisation for householders in fuel poverty.</p>	<p>April 2007 and ongoing</p>	<p>Networks and agreements in place, reduction in fuel poor households</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team//FAB and participating partners</p>

<p>11. To establish sign up, and work with others towards providing Standard Assessment Procedure housing improvements in individual dwellings to equal or better than SAP 65 by 2016.</p>	<p>To identify housing which is rated lower than SAP 65. To then work with home owners, landlords, occupiers and agencies signed up to the COP to identify funding and provide technical support to achieve SAP 65.</p>	<p>April 2007 to complete 2016</p>	<p>The average energy grade for homes in Leeds to be SAP 65 or above.</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team/FAB and partners.</p>
<p>12. To secure main stream resources to support fuel poverty reduction objectives over time.</p>	<p>To work with all agencies to secure main stream resources to support fuel poverty reduction objectives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Access secured to mainstream capital and revenue funding to support fuel poverty reduction</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team/FAB energy providers and partners</p>
<p>13. To achieve affordable warmth for all vulnerable fuel poor households in Leeds (Pensioners, the long term ill, the disabled and households with children) by 2010 and all others by 2016.</p>	<p>To work with partners to identify fuel poor households. To work with partners and achieve affordable warmth for all fuel poor households in Leeds</p>	<p>Ongoing 2016</p>	<p>Networks in place for identification, referral and support of fuel poor households. All fuel poor households achieve affordable warmth</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team/FAB and partners</p>
<p>14. To look to ensure that the increase in affordable warmth to fuel poor households, and in turn the likely increases in greenhouse gases and effects on the environment are minimised.</p>	<p>To link with the Climate Change Strategy and minimise the effect of bringing households to affordable warmth in terms of greenhouse gases and their environmental impact.</p>	<p>April 2007 and ongoing</p>	<p>Impact of bringing household in Leeds to affordable warmth is minimised in terms of increased production of greenhouse gases.</p>	<p>Fuelsavers team/FAB/ Environment City Team</p>

LEEDS AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2007-2008

APPENDIX (V)

Objective	Task	Timescales	Outcome	Lead
Support District Partnerships, Registered Social Landlords, and Arms Length Management Organisations in establishing Affordable Warmth action Plans.	Fuelsavers/FAB/ NTGG to work with and support partners to formulate plans		5 x plans to be supported	
Communicate with all private sector benefit eligible and low income households, if know, to highlight current and available energy grants/ support.	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to communicate with residents.		All benefit eligible households contacted.	
Communicate door to door with vulnerable private sector households to highlight current and available energy grants and support by Electoral Ward.	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to formulate and deliver a door to door communication structure.		5 x top fuel poor ward vulnerable households to be contacted.	
Establish a mechanism to secure Warm Zones or similar status for Leeds	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to formulate bid document and seek to secure Warm Zones or equivalent status / resource.		Construct a bid document, secure partner approval and bid for Warm Zones or its equivalent status and resource.	
Establish a bulk contract and or utility supported discount insulation scheme for Leeds	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to establish an agreement.		Construct a bid document, secure partner approval and bid for resources.	
Establish a benefits fast track support mechanism in the City	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to establish a delivery mechanism.		Secure partner approval and asses the viability of providing this service.	
Establish a front line worker energy training facility in the	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to		Train 500 staff to identify or provide advice to households.	

City.	establish a delivery mechanism.			
Establish a front line worker communication network including a web based information facility for the City.	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to establish a delivery mechanism.		Establish a communication network between partners.	
Establish a technical worker support network including a web based information facility for the City.	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to establish a delivery mechanism.		Establish a communication network between partners.	
Provide a range of technical and fuel poverty support information and Best Practice Guides.	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to deliver this objective.		Provide a minimum of 20 technical or other guides.	
Deliver a range of technical and fuel poverty Best Practise Workshops.	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to deliver this objective.		Provide a minimum of 5 technical or other workshops	
Secure Single Pot or other financial resources to accelerate fuel poverty reduction.	Fuelsavers/FAB to work with partners to deliver this objective.		Secure partner approval and construct a bid document, and bid for resources.	

LEEDS AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY WORKSHOP 1

ATTENDEE		ORGANISATION
Lucy	Alexander	Leeds East Homes
Cllr Barry	Anderson	Leeds City Council
Allison	Bird	Leeds City Council
Beckie	Bracher	Headrow Housing Group
Phillip	Charlton	Leeds South East Homes
Robert	Curtis	Leeds City Council
Nikki	Cush	Health Through Warmth
Marie-Pierre	Dupont	Leeds City Council
Sharon	Fallows	Leeds City Council
Greg	Fell	Huddersfield South and Central Huddersfield PCTs
John	Galtress	Leeds South homes
Martin	Green	Leeds City Council
Janet	Haj - Najafi	Leeds City Council
Kathryn	Ingold	Leeds West Primary Care Trust
Jan	Jackson	Leeds City Council
Clare	Johnson	The Pension Service
Alan	Jones	Leeds City Council
Sajda	Khaliq	Leeds City Council
Dr Tom	Knowland	Leeds City Council
Terry	Lacy	Leeds West Homes Leeds Federated Housing Association
Andrew	Liles	
Janet	Luford	Burley Lodge Centre
Gavin	McAuley	Eaga Partnership Ltd
Stephen	McEnery	Leeds City Council
Angela	Miller	Connect Housing
Naomi	Morrill	Leeds Voice
Peter	O'Neill	npower
Ian	Parker	Leeds City Council
Simeon	Perry	Leeds City Council
Peter	Simpson	Leeds City Council
Mel	Smith	Leeds City Council
Mark	Southwell	Chapelton CAB
John	Swift	East Leeds Primary Care Trust
Rob	Swithinbank	Leeds City Council
Colin	Wake	Leeds City Council
Joy	Wetherill	Leeds City Council
Peter	Williams	Leeds City Council
Barry	Whittaker	West Yorks Fire
Shiv	Dev	West Yorks Fire
Colin	Mason	Leeds South Homes
Angela	Miller	Connect Housing
Janet	Ludgir	
Janet	Burr	
Stephanie	Brown	
Aidan	Hincliffe	Dial

LEEDS AFFORDABLE WARMTH WORKSHOP 2

ATTENDEE		ORGANISATION
Cllr Barry	Anderson	Leeds City Council
Lucy	Alexander	Leeds East Homes
Malcolm	Bell	Professor of Surveying & Sustainable Housing
Steve	Blighton	Leeds City Council
Robert	Curtis	Leeds City Council
Marie-Pierre	Dupont	Leeds City Council
John	Galtress	Leeds South homes
Aidan	Hincliffe	DIAL
Jane	Holmes	Care & Repair (Leeds)
Jan	Jackson	Leeds City Council
Alan	Jones	Leeds City Council
David	Kidston	Leeds City Council
Sajda	Khaliq	Leeds City Council
Terry	Lacy	Leeds West Homes
Tahir	Mahmood	West Yorks Fire Service
Colin	Mawson	Leeds South homes
Gavin	McAuley	Eaga Partnership Ltd
Stephen	McEnery	Leeds City Council
Nicola	Marshall	Scottish Power
Peter	O'Neill	npower
Ian	Parker	Leeds City Council
Peter	Simpson	Leeds City Council
Mel	Smith	Leeds City Council
John	Swift	East Leeds Primary Care Trust
Rob	Swthinbank	Leeds City Council
Colin	Wake	Leeds City Council
Joy	Wetherill	Leeds City Council
Peter	Williams	Leeds City Council
Barry	Whittaker	West Yorks Fire Service
Keith	Gibson	Leeds City Council