

Leeds Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017 - 2030

It is the ambition of Leeds, set out in the Vision for Leeds 2011-2030 to ensure that all homes in the City are of a decent standard and that everyone can afford to stay warm. This is important because we know that living in a cold, damp home can have a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of residents of all ages, particularly those who are vulnerable because of old age, the very young, disabled people and those suffering from a cold related illness. Leeds City Council and the Affordable Warmth Partnership intend to fulfil this ambition by raising living standards across the City through improving energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty. This aim coincides with the national fuel poverty strategy, *Cutting the cost of keeping warm – a fuel poverty strategy for England*, which sets out targets to improve energy efficiency in housing whilst outlining a collaborative approach between local authorities, health providers and non-statutory organisations to reducing fuel poverty.

Preventing cold related illness is also an objective of Leeds' joint health and wellbeing strategy which seeks to ensure that people can thrive in healthy and sustainable communities by maximising health improvements through action on housing. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has issued guidance on preventing Excess Winter Deaths and one of the Partnership's tasks is to ensure that this guidance is followed by the Council and its partners to assist vulnerable households and relieve pressure on health and social services.

Affordable warmth falls under the remit of Leeds' Cutting Carbon Breakthrough Project which will focus resources on Leeds' commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. The project will focus on reducing all aspects of energy usage including by domestic housing, transport and industry, however it is recognised that there is an overwhelming priority to ensure that homes are heated to an adequate standard if that home has been inadequately heated previously, whilst minimising any resultant increase in energy usage, particularly where the residents are vulnerable.

Fuel Poverty and Affordable Warmth

Fuel poverty exists where low income households live in properties that are expensive to keep warm. A household is defined as being in fuel poverty if:

- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and;
- Were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official fuel poverty line.

The main drivers of fuel poverty are therefore:

- The energy efficiency of the property (affecting the amount of energy required to heat the home)
- Household income
- The cost of energy

In 2013, 11.6% of households in Leeds were living in fuel poverty according to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which is higher than the average for England of approximately 10.4% of all households. There are a number of reasons why affordable warmth is a particular challenge in Leeds. These include:

- A large number of difficult to insulate homes, such as pre – 1919 terraced housing. These have solid walls, requiring external or internal wall insulation, costing many times the price

of standard cavity wall insulation and in many cases, attic rooms, requiring insulation to be built into the roof, rather than rolled out on to the ceiling. Leeds also has a number of post war housing estates of non-standard construction which have been built with steel frames which may not be suitable for insulation.

- As the third largest City in the UK, Leeds contains some of the most economically deprived areas in the Country. Since a large proportion of residents in these areas will be on a low income, a large proportion will also be in fuel poverty. Some of these are also inner city areas with many older properties that are expensive to insulate.
- Leeds has a large proportion of private rented homes that have traditionally had a lower average energy efficiency than other tenures. There are many causes of this, however the presence of low income households, disengagement of some landlords and short term tenancies, meaning that residents have less of a stake in the future of the property, have meant that take up of energy efficiency improvements in private rented accommodation has traditionally been lower than in other tenures, even where grants for improvements have been available.
- Leeds has many residents who are vulnerable due to age or ill health and who are at risk of having their health problems exacerbated by living in cold, damp conditions. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recognises the following groups as being particularly vulnerable to cold living conditions:
 - People with cardio-vascular conditions
 - People with respiratory conditions (In particular COPD and childhood asthma)
 - Those suffering from mental health conditions
 - People with disabilities
 - Older people (age 65 and over)
 - Households with young children (new born to school age)
 - Pregnant women
 - Low income households

Vulnerable people who are not in full time employment will often stay at home for longer periods and some may require a higher than average indoor temperature, leading to higher fuel bills.

- Although an urban area, Leeds contains a considerable number of homes that are not connected to a gas main, the vast majority of which have electricity as their main heating fuel. Whilst some will be in rural areas on the periphery of the city, there are many that were built as all electric estates at a time when it was thought that electricity would be a lot cheaper than it is now. Many of these homes have obsolete heating systems such as storage heaters and underfloor electric heating which are comparatively expensive to use and difficult to control, meaning that residents are more likely to have difficulty heating their home.
- Many residents on a low income prefer to use pre-payment meters as a means of budgeting for their fuel. However, households using these meters are often denied access to the cheapest tariffs and face punitive charges for having them removed.

Many households in Leeds experience a combination of the above factors, meaning that achieving affordable warmth can be particularly difficult and require more than one intervention. For this reason, one of the main purposes of the Partnership is to ensure that different organisations are

aware of what the others can offer, so that households can be referred to additional assistance where appropriate.

Leeds Affordable Warmth Partnership

The Affordable Warmth Partnership includes organisations from across Leeds encompassing the Council, with Councillor representation from all main parties and community committees. It also includes representatives of housing providers, including Housing Leeds, Housing Associations and the private rented sector as well as voluntary sector organisations.

The Partnership meets on a quarterly basis to influence Council affordable warmth policy, disseminate best practice and coordinate action. The Partnership also develops cross-cutting projects, promotes affordable warmth through its members and helps to develop the annual affordable warmth action plan. It has also corresponded officially with Central Government on issues of affordable warmth on behalf of the Council and responded to policy consultations.

The Partnership is administered as part of Leeds City Council's Environment and Housing Department and reports to the Environment Programme Board, however it also has representation from and close links with other departments such as Public Health and Children's and Adults Services. The partnership also has cross representation with the Adverse Weather Group which allows it to feed into the wider cold weather planning agenda, including elements such as emergency response, nutrition and seasonal flu vaccinations. Through this group we are able to influence the Health Protection Board and we have cooperated on projects such as the Public Health Winter Friends Campaign, which included training on assisting households with affordable warmth issues.

Aims and Objectives

The partnership has two overall aims in improving affordable warmth:

- To increase the average SAP rating of housing in Leeds to band C by 2020 as a whole, and to ensure that no properties are below band E by 2030. This is more ambitious than the target outlined in the National fuel poverty strategy "to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030".
- To ensure that resident's health and wellbeing isn't put at risk due to being unable to heat their home, as per the NICE guidelines on preventing excess winter deaths.

To increase the average SAP rating to Band C, there will need to be a massive program of energy efficiency works and concomitant investment by Government. In Leeds, we will need to insulate around 75,000 solid walled properties and upgrade their heating where needed at a cost of roughly £10,000 per property, amounting to approximately £750 million. There will also need to be insulation and heating upgrades to a further 26,500 non-solid walled properties at roughly £2,000 per property, costing £53 million. This would mean a total cost of £803 million.

To ensure that no properties are below Band E by 2030 will also require significant investment, however this will be more easily achievable and funding would be targeted at households with the highest levels of fuel poverty. There are around 19,000 households in Leeds with a SAP band F & G. This would equate to improving approximately 1,500 properties per year, but if costs are £5,000 - £10,000 per property that would still cost £7.5-£15m per year, or £95-190m altogether.

Leeds City Council and the wider partnership will try to achieve these aims by tapping into, and coordinating whatever funding is available including energy supplier obligations and Government grant funding where available.

The partnership has agreed the following objectives in order to improve affordable warmth across the City:

- **Increasing Energy Efficiency**
 - By providing schemes to increase the energy efficiency of domestic housing
 - By providing energy efficiency advice to residents across Leeds
- **Reducing Fuel Poverty**
 - By targeting fuel poor households with assistance
 - By maximising the income of households in fuel poverty
 - By reducing household fuel bills
- **Improving Health and Wellbeing Through Increasing Affordable Warmth**
 - By improving household heating without increasing carbon emissions where possible
 - Through crisis intervention for vulnerable people in cold homes, including heating installation and repairs
 - With help to prevent people falling into fuel poverty
- **Enabling Residents to Benefit from Renewable Energy**

The above objectives recognise that no single approach will be appropriate for all residents in the City and we will tailor assistance to individual households using a range of projects and schemes. The partnerships overall approach will be:

- To attract funding for improvements, by bringing together local and national resources where possible, for example by developing schemes that can match Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding with other sources of funding to install energy efficiency and heating measures in people's homes.
- To work in partnership across Leeds and beyond, supporting and enabling different organisations, including in the voluntary sector, to work together to refer households to appropriate help, as well as developing and delivering projects to help residents in the City.
- To use health and energy efficiency intelligence to target interventions where they are likely to make the most impact in improving residents health and wellbeing and reducing fuel poverty.
- To pursue a three pronged approach to heating and energy efficiency improvements encompassing:
 - City wide projects aimed at improving the whole housing stock to future proof residents against fuel poverty
 - Targeted initiatives in areas with particular characteristics that make them susceptible to fuel poverty, for example, areas of low income, hard to treat housing or with large concentrations of vulnerable households such as those with long term medical conditions
 - Crisis intervention to identify and assist those vulnerable residents most in need

- To pursue year round action including preventative work to improve affordable warmth and the development of the affordable warmth agenda, as stipulated in the NICE guidance on Excess Winter Deaths and Illness and the Risks Associated with Living in Cold Homes.

Priorities and Themes for Action

Increasing Energy Efficiency

Leeds has undertaken many projects over the years to improve the energy efficiency of domestic housing across the city. Notable examples of these were the Wrap Up Leeds free insulation scheme, which enabled the installation of cavity wall and loft insulation in approximately 8,000 private sector households across Leeds in 2012 and the Decent Homes Scheme which saw 31,000 council owned properties upgraded with cavity wall and loft insulation between 2000 and 2012.

Even though the funding available nationally for these schemes has diminished in recent years, Leeds is committed to continuing the progressive increase in energy efficiency across the housing stock using whatever funding is made available.

- **City-wide private sector energy efficiency schemes.** We will use whatever resources are available to ensure that as many private sector households as possible have access to cost effective energy efficiency measures. At present, Leeds is working with the city region to provide heavily subsidised improvements to residents through the Better Homes Yorkshire scheme. The scheme uses Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding to subsidise measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation for residents, although our ambition is to find funding so that householders can access a more extensive range of measures, including solid wall insulation.
- **Improvements to council housing.** Although much has been achieved through the Decent Homes Standard, some suitable properties are inevitably missed out and it is the intention of Leeds City Council to ensure that these can have cavity wall and/or loft insulation installed where appropriate. Leeds City Council will also ensure that Council Tenants continue to have access to up to date heating systems as is currently the case through the Heatlease and Total Heat schemes.
- **Energy efficiency advice.** Leeds City Council has a long standing ambition to ensure that all residents in the City have access to telephone advice on fuel bills, energy efficiency and schemes. Currently the Energy Saving Trust provides detailed technical information on energy efficiency, however its nationwide advice line is unable to refer households to local schemes, therefore we will be working to ensure that all Leeds residents have access to local energy efficiency and fuel bill advice through the telephone and internet.
- **Area based energy efficiency schemes.** Due to the wide variation in housing types and income levels across the city, energy efficiency schemes targeted at particular areas are sometimes necessary to ensure that those households are offered appropriate improvements. One such scheme currently underway is the Green Deal Communities project which is installing subsidised external wall insulation in approximately 350 solid and steel framed wall properties in specific areas with those housing types. The project has been partly funded by a grant from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and we will continue to seek such funding opportunities in the future.

- **Improving private rented housing.** Although many energy efficiency schemes aimed at the private sector are available to private tenants as well as owner occupiers, the private rented sector suffers from lower average energy efficiency ratings and faces numerous barriers to improvement. As well as the sector having a high proportion of low income, hard to treat properties, tenants will have less of an investment in the property and be less inclined to invest in improvements to heating and energy efficiency. Similarly some landlords may be less engaged and unprepared to spend money on the property to maintain it to an acceptable standard. The Affordable Warmth Partnership will continue to engage with landlords through landlords associations and the Leeds Landlords Accreditation Scheme, and will continue to work with the Leeds City Council private sector housing team to publicise and enforce minimum energy efficiency standards due to come into force in 2016 and 2018.

Over the past few years, the changing landscape in terms of Government funded grant assistance in particular has created a challenging environment in which to promote energy efficiency improvements in households, particularly given Leeds' high proportion of older, more expensive to insulate homes. Our task will be to find innovative ways to support as many households as possible to improve the efficiency of their homes.

Better homes Leeds Case Study

The installation of external wall insulation has completely rejuvenated this pair of semi-detached properties in Kippax near Leeds. Along with other homes in the neighbourhood the application of alsecco's insulated render system has upgraded the property's appearances as well as improving their energy performance.

The works were carried out by SSE with a proportion of funding from Leeds City Council's share of DECC's Green Deal Communities Fund and a small contribution from the homeowners themselves. Installed over the existing substrate, the alsecco system used high performance insulation and was completed with a render finish to the homeowner's colour preference. Neil Smith, SSE "the alsecco technical team were on hand throughout the project, making regular site visits to monitor the installation and provide on-going technical and design support to ensure that the system was installed consistently and to high standards." alsecco is committed to working with home owners to ensure their homes are better insulated and easier to keep warm whilst also transforming the exterior also adding value. The installation of alsecco's external wall insulation systems can save up to 45% of the heat loss from a home and could potentially result in savings of up to £460 per year on fuel bills.

Reducing Fuel Poverty

As well as increasing the overall energy efficiency of the housing stock, other action can be taken around income and fuel bills to assist those households in fuel poverty, such as ensuring that residents are receiving whatever state benefits they are entitled to, advising people to sign up for the warm homes discount and assisting them to switch energy supplier where appropriate. Targeted action to improve homes in low income areas, or areas with a high proportion of private rented properties is also vital to ensure that households suffering from fuel poverty are reached.

- **Extension of gas mains to off-gas households.** Leeds has many properties that are off of the gas network, most of which rely on expensive to run and difficult to operate electrical heating, including storage heaters, underfloor electric heating and plug-in electric heaters. For many of these homes, gas central heating is likely to remain the most cost-effective way

of improving heating for many years to come. For this reason, Leeds is working closely with partners such as Northern Gas Networks and Community Energy Solutions to link more of these properties to the gas network. Many of them are in low income areas of mixed tenure, so the challenge is to find a funding solution that will pay for both a gas connection and a heating system in both social and private sector housing.

- **Area renewal.** Leeds has many areas with multiple problems such as low average incomes, high levels of private renting, expensive to insulate properties and lack of local amenities that require a cross departmental response in order to create a step change in the quality of the local environment. Cross Green in East Leeds is one such area where several departments of the Council have cooperated with the voluntary sector to provide a material improvement to the whole of the local environment. The homes themselves have received packages including heating and solid wall insulation along with other renovations such as new doors and windows.
- **Fuel bill/income advice.** During the 2012/13 and 2013/14 winter periods, Chapeltown CAB ran outreach sessions providing combined fuel bill and income advice to households. Many of these sessions were held in local schools and children's centres, reaching working age households who have traditionally not received as much attention in terms of fuel poverty assistance as the elderly. Additionally, several partner organisations in Leeds, including CAB, Groundwork Leeds, Care & Repair and Age UK have provided advice to households and training to local groups as part of DECC's Big Energy Saving Network. Our intention is for this sort of support to be provided on a year round basis and for support with more intractable problems with energy suppliers to be provided.
- **Local fuel tariff.** Whilst households are advised to regularly check their energy tariff to see whether there is a cheaper one available, the domestic energy market in the UK is still seen as opaque and difficult to negotiate. Leeds City Council's ambition is to provide residents with a trusted local energy tariff which would be easy for residents to understand, and would not share the pitfalls of many existing tariffs such as moving people onto expensive variable tariffs when fixed rate tariffs expire. In addition, many of Leeds' lowest income residents use pre-payment meters as a way of budgeting for their fuel, yet traditionally they have not had access to the cheapest tariffs. One of the key aims of Leeds' local fuel tariff will be to ensure that pre-payment customers are not penalised because of their payment method.

Reducing fuel poverty encompasses many aspects of help, including help with fuel bills, energy efficiency and income maximisation. We will aim to ensure that these types of help are coordinated across agencies and that as many residents of Leeds who need this help have access to it.

Improving Health and Wellbeing Through affordable Warmth

Affordable Warmth has an important role to play in improving the health and wellbeing of residents across the City. NICE, in its guidance on excess winter deaths recognises the importance of affordable warmth in reducing excess winter deaths, reducing pressure on health and social services and improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups in particular, including those suffering from cold related illness or disability, residents of pensionable age, households with pregnant women or young children and low income households.

Affordable warmth is more complicated than just reducing fuel bills as it includes improving heating in homes where the existing heating is inadequate and minimising any resultant increase in fuel costs as a result, as well as ensuring that vulnerable households aren't left in a crisis without heating or hot water if their heating system breaks down, particularly during the cold weather. There is also a need to identify and direct assistance to those households most in need, a process which requires cooperation between partners and different approaches tailored to individual households.

Leeds City Council and its partners undertake a number of actions to ensure that the Council is applying the NICE guidelines and that all of these considerations are addressed.

- **Heating improvements for those suffering from, or at risk of cold related illness.** For many years, Care & Repair Leeds, supported by Leeds City Council, has managed the Warm Homes Service which provides heating improvements to low income private sector households where a resident suffers from a cold related illness. Where a resident requires an improved heating system or repair, the service will provide assistance in specifying the heating improvement, seeking grant and other sources of funding to pay for that improvement and providing trusted contractors to carry out the work. The service also provides speedy repairs where a vulnerable resident would otherwise be left without heating or insulation. This service helps us to meet the NICE recommendations of providing tailored heating solutions to vulnerable residents, and hospital discharge services are trained to refer outpatients to them, helping to ensure that vulnerable people are discharged into a warm home.
- **Home visits providing energy efficiency and fuel bill advice to vulnerable households.** Groundwork Leeds, supported by Leeds City Council manage the Green doctor Service, which visits vulnerable low income households of all tenures in their homes with energy efficiency advice, assistance with fuel tariffs and bills along with small scale energy efficiency measures such as the installation of draft proofing and reflective radiator panels. Where the resident is in need of a larger more expensive measure, such as heating or insulation, the Green doctor can refer the household directly to other schemes such as the warm Homes Service and Better Homes Leeds. This service helps us to meet NICE's recommendation of identifying people at risk of ill health from living in a cold home.
- **Planning for cold and severe weather.** A key aspect of affordable warmth is ensuring that people have the help they need during periods of cold weather. Leeds City Council, led by the Public Health department convenes a severe weather planning group aimed at ensuring that vital public services across Leeds, both within and outside of the Council, are geared up to assist the most vulnerable residents during severe weather. The group coordinates efforts across the city to identify those at risk of ill health from living in a cold home as well as to inform and train health and social care professionals to help residents identified as living in a cold home and educate them on how to keep warm in accordance with the NICE guidelines.

One of the main functions of the group is to conduct publicity campaigns to ensure that the right messages are conveyed to the public as well as front line staff and volunteers, and that guidance from the Department of Health's Cold Weather Plan is followed. It includes representatives from Public Health, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Team, Emergency Planning, Social Services and Clinical Commissioning Groups and reports directly to the Health Improvement Board.

- **Supporting people during the cold weather.** For the past three years, Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Groups have commissioned additional and expanded services aimed at helping people during cold weather. As well as providing additional funding for the Warm Homes Service and Green Doctor to cope with additional seasonal demand, the group has also commissioned the following additional services:
 - Distribution of winter wellbeing packs containing thermal clothes and other supplies, to elderly and vulnerable residents through voluntary groups and other local networks
 - Provision of small grants to local and city wide voluntary sector organisations for projects to help people during the cold weather. Projects which reduce social isolation amongst vulnerable residents are encouraged and have included lunch clubs, drop-in sessions, knitting groups, assisted shopping and transport, home visits, crisis payments, emergency homeless accommodation and advocacy support (see appendix 1 for full list of 2014/15 small grants funded projects).

This year Public Health and the South and East, and North Clinical Commissioning Groups, have re-designed their additional funding for the Warm Homes and Green Doctor services as a three year contract to provide a comprehensive Warmth for Wellbeing service encompassing advice with energy efficiency and heating improvements to residents most at risk of ill health. This service is intended to supplement existing Warm Homes Service and Green Doctor support and should go some way to providing the year-round single point of contact health and housing referral service recommended by NICE.

- **Awareness raising and referrals.** One of the key barriers to improving affordable warmth is finding a way to engage with those people who are most difficult to reach. Some residents may be elderly and socially isolated and may not have much contact with traditional outreach services such as libraries and one stop centres. Similarly, residents of some communities may experience language barriers and have difficulty obtaining information from the traditional channels. Many of the NICE guidance's key recommendations relate to training and awareness raising of cold related ill health amongst a wide range of professionals and volunteers. To address this, the partnership's approach is to engage organisations and services that are more likely to have contact with these households, to train them to recognise whether a resident might be having difficulty keeping warm so that they can refer them to further assistance.

Over the years, many front line services and teams have been trained by Leeds City Council and its partners, including front line NHS services such as out of hospital care and long term conditions teams to refer households to the Warm Homes Service. The partnership will continue to train key front line staff in the health, social care and the voluntary sectors to maintain an awareness of affordable warmth and knowledge of the help available.

While much progress has been made with affordable warmth by Leeds City Council and its partners, in a city as large and diverse as Leeds there will inevitably always be more to do to ensure that all residents who are at risk of cold related ill health, are identified and helped as soon as possible. We will continue to work to ensure that vulnerable people are not put at risk of ill health through living in a cold home.

For a full list of the NICE Recommendations on preventing Excess Winter Deaths, see Appendix B

Warm Homes Case Study

Mr B lives alone in a terrace house and had recently suffered a stroke. He also has Diabetes and a Heart condition that requires him to have a pacemaker. He was referred to the Warm Homes Service by a support worker from Richmond Elderly Aid that was concerned about the level of warmth in his property. We had previously provided Mr B with a new electric fire and Immersion heater when he had returned from Intermediate care but he wasn't ready for Central heating at that time.

The Warm Homes Caseworker arranged to visit Mr B in his own home but communication was difficult as Mr B could not process information and needed the assistance of a friend. The Warm Homes Caseworker also liaised with a support worker from Creative Support to ensure Mr B was kept Informed of developments with his central heating application. We were able to apply for financial assistance from various sources including South and East Clinical Commissioning Group to help fund the heating. The central heating radiators are now fitted and Mr B was very pleased with the outcome. Our heating Engineer identified that Mr B struggled to understand and operate the temperature controls so he has replaced them with a simpler model to suit his needs.

Green Doctor Case Study

Mr Eldridge is a pensioner who lives alone in his little cottage in North Leeds, he is kept company by hundreds of racing pigeons who are kept in his garden.

Mr Eldridge was referred to the Green doctor service by the British Red Cross, he was keen to have everything checked out to make sure the home was efficient and draughts were eliminated. Keeping warm is of particular importance to Mr Eldridge to keep him healthy and aid his recovery.

The Green doctors assisted Mr Eldridge by fitting draught-proofing to his front door, fitting radiator panels behind his external radiators and spending time showing him how to compare and switch energy suppliers. Mr Eldridge didn't expect that kind of help with his bills but really appreciated it:

"My bills have always been very expensive, I had been with E.ON for years and I could use as much as I wanted on their "Stay warm" tariff but they pulled that, I have looked at another company but you had to be on the computer for their tariff, I think that's ridiculous"

Using an Ofgem accredited switching service the Green doctors helped Mr Eldridge to find the right information on his bills and after a discussion about an appropriate payment method, compared it with other supplier's tariffs. Mr Eldridge then decided to switch a new supplier saving him a phenomenal £750!

"Its been very easy to switch, but if it hadn't been for you coming along I don't think I would have done it. Ive now been sent all the letters and information by my new supplier"

Mr Eldridge found the Green doctors to be informative and friendly and would encourage others to get in touch.

"I would certainly recommend a visit, it's a smashing service"

Enabling Residents to Benefit From Renewable Energy

Although Government support has been available for some time to help towards the cost of installing renewable energy solutions in domestic properties, such assistance as the feed-in-tariff, which subsidises the generation of electricity from renewable sources and the renewable heat

incentive, which similarly subsidises the generation of heat. However, these mechanisms have primarily been designed to develop the supply chain, meaning that such technologies have continued to be out of reach for lower income households due to their high required capital costs.

As part of a progressive affordable warmth policy, Leeds' intention is to enable a wider range of residents to make use of renewable technologies to reduce their fuel bills including lower income households.

- **Leeds photovoltaic solar panel scheme.** Housing Leeds is currently working on a project to install solar photovoltaic panels on the roofs of 1000 council tenants across the City. The Council will be paying for the solar panels using capital funds and recouping the investment with the Government's feed-in-tariff, which provides a subsidy for every kWh of electricity generated. The tenant gains any of the electricity generated for free, leading to a reduction in their electricity bills.
- **District Heating Networks.** These heating networks, which use a single source of heat to warm multiple homes, are particularly suited to densely populated areas, for example those with large blocks of flats and closely packed town houses, particularly if they already rely on an obsolete form of heating, such as electric storage heating. The new energy from waste plant currently under construction in Leeds will provide a large source of heat available to homes and businesses in the City. Planning is currently underway to pipe a large proportion of this heat to St James' Hospital in the East of the City, providing an opportunity to overhaul the heating in the surrounding areas of flats and houses including Little London, Lincoln Green, Ebor Gardens and Burmantofts, many of which were built in the post war era with all-electric heating.
Additionally, Leeds has successfully applied for European funding to install a biomass communal heating system in the New Wortley area of Leeds. This is providing heating to 264 dwellings consisting of a sheltered housing complex and surrounding system built properties, many of which were also improved with external wall insulation.
- **Renewable Heat Incentive.** Like the feed-in tariff the renewable heat incentive is a Government scheme that subsidises energy generated through renewable sources, albeit in this case heat. In 2015, Housing Leeds successfully signed up approximately forty properties with air source heat pumps to the domestic RHI, generating a small income of approximately £100,000 over the next seven years that can be reinvested in energy efficiency.
Leeds City Council is currently investigating other options to utilise the RHI, for example to finance ground source heat pumps in more rural off-gas areas by developing bridging finance to cover part of the initial capital cost before it is paid back through the RHI.

It has traditionally been difficult to promote renewable technologies, many of which are new and unfamiliar or may require a high capital investment to residents on an individual basis. Leeds will continue to ensure that the residents of Leeds have the opportunity to benefit from renewable energy where this is appropriate to their needs.

Monitoring and Reviewing Progress

Each year we will provide an update on progress against the priorities for action contained in this document as part of the Cutting Carbon Breakthrough agenda. This will be conducted through the Leeds Affordable Warmth Partnership with responsibility for driving this agenda forward.

Appendix A: 2014-15 Small Grants Fund Projects

	Organisation	Beneficiary	Area	Project Summary
1	Advocacy Support (partnership with RETAS, Solace and others)	BME (all ages)	Citywide	"Keep Warm Cafes" for BME communities, offering confidential bilingual support and refreshments. Volunteers offering home visits, help with shopping to most vulnerable clients.
2	Al Khidmat Centre	BME / Older People	LS6/7/8/9	Additional staff costs to provide hot meals, drinks, and help and assistance at the Centre.
3	Association of Blind Asians	BME	Citywide (mostly in LS7/8/9)	Home visits and/or telephone support, visit 4 community groups to raise awareness of winter health, weekly community café at Mary Sunley House. Associated staffing/ volunteer costs.
4	Belle Isle Elderly Winter Aid	Older People	Belle Isle (inner South)	Winter Support Visits to most vulnerable clients, handypersons, emergency shopping service.
5	British Red Cross	People with LTCs, BME	Citywide	Crisis payments to meet immediate need of vulnerable patients, identified by BRC 'Support at Home' and 'Refugee Support' services. E.g. one-off electricity payment, food, or warm clothing for people discharged from hospital.
6	Burmantofts Senior Action	Older People	Burmantofts (inner East)	Home visits, winter warmth items (e.g. bedding), flyers, Zumba.
7	Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London	Older People	Woodhouse, Little London (inner NW)	Assisted shopping scheme including transport, and expanding telephone support, transport to group activities, long life food items.
8	Fairfield Enterprise & Community	Older People	Bramley (LS13), Headingley, and LS16	Expand luncheon club for older people. Plus slippers and vegetable packs.
9	Feel Good Factor	People with LTCs, families	Chapelton, Harehills	12 winter warming cooking classes targeting people with LD, LTC and families with young children. Plus free 'take home' bag of ingredients.
10	Hawksworth Older People Support Services (HOPS)	Older People	Hawksworth (inner NW)	Peer telephone calls, extend lunch club provision, transport to activities e.g. craft group, home delivery of hot meals.
11	Holbeck Elderly Aid	Older People	Holbeck (Inner South)	Winter Warmth Workshops, transport for shopping and activities, food parcels, newsletter, hot meals.
12	Horsforth Live at Home Scheme	Older People	Horsforth (outer NW)	Pop-up coffee mornings "Meet Up @ Mine in Wintertime" in members' own homes, plus some associated admin/travel costs and refreshments.
13	Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (partnership with Solace, PAFRAS, BRC)	BME (all ages)	Citywide	Expand 'Grace Hosting' emergency accommodation scheme through funding associated staffing/meals and laundry/ client transport costs.
14	Leeds Irish Health and Homes	BME – Older People	Citywide (mostly East, NE, South)	Provision of basic winter warmth clothing for vulnerable 'working age' and older people plus associated volunteer costs.

15	Leeds Mind	People with LTCs	Citywide but primarily West / Northwest	Winter Befriending Scheme for older people (over 65s) with long term and enduring mental health problems, plus 3 winter warmer groups.
16	Leeds Sudanese Community Association	BME (all ages)	Citywide (mostly LS6/7/8/9/14/15)	Soup Kitchen, Food Bank, and home deliveries, plus associated volunteer / transport/ admin costs.
17	Leeds West Indian Centre	BME (over 75s)	Chapelton, Harehills (LS7)	Weekly winter soup meals and activities at the Centre, associated transport and staff costs including attendance and home visiting by community nurses from Mary Seacole Nurses Association.
18	MENA (Meanwood Elders Neighbourhood Action)	Older People	Meanwood/ Moortown	Partial grant towards cost of wool and other materials.
19	OPAL (Older People's Action in the Locality)	Older People	LS16 (Outer NW)	Support "Snow Friends" scheme for most vulnerable clients, emergency shopping / food parcels, winter warmth items.
20	Otley Action for Older People	Older People	LS21 (Outer NW)	Winter Telephone Contact Scheme, 3 coffee mornings, food hampers for most vulnerable members.
21	People in Action	Health	Citywide	Enable 'Changing Lives' clubs, which support adults (25-70 years) with LD, to run "Staying Safe and Healthy" projects.
22	Sangam Forum	BME – older people	Citywide	Telephone buddying/befriending scheme in Asian languages, to run for 3 hours per day. Assistance for shopping and attending medical appointments including associated staffing/admin/transport costs.
23	Seacroft Parish	Families	Seacroft (LS14)	Extend Youth Kitchen project in South Seacroft. Weekly meals provided at St Richard's Church (North Seacroft).
24	Simon on the Streets	Homeless	Citywide	Expand outreach provision, working in partnership with York Street Medical Centre, providing instant care response packages.
25	South Leeds Live at Home Scheme	Older People	Beeston, Hunslet, Cottingley (LS10, LS11)	Handyperson visits, small jobs, emergency food parcels.
26	South Seacroft Friends & Neighbours	Older People	Seacroft (LS14)	LCF funding towards cost of hot meals as part of existing lunch clubs for vulnerable elderly people in the area.
27	Space2 (partnership with LS14 Trust)	Families; People with LTCs	LS14 (Seacroft/ Gipton)	Produce a short animated film, working with 3 existing community groups, giving real-life tips on how they keep warm in winter. Film/DVD to be presented at community venues across East Leeds and widely distributed e.g. YouTube and social media.
28	St John's Lunch Club	Older People	Stanningley (LS28, West)	LCF funding towards thermal clothing on condition that same beneficiaries don't receive winter packs from LCC.
29	St Vincent's Support Centre	Low income families, older people	Citywide (mostly inner East/South)	Continuation of food parcel service for destitute families; targeting older people to engage in social activities in the community café, including promoting low cost food/drink deals. The grant

				funds additional staffing and volunteering costs.
30	Streetwise - Love Leeds	Low income families; LTCs	Citywide	Help (warm clothing) packs and emergency food packs.
31	Syrian Community	People with LTCs	East Leeds (LS8, LS9)	LCF provided funding towards hot meals for free/small donation for older people from local area only.
32	Together Women	Homeless, sex workers, other isolated women	Citywide	"Warmth for Women" scheme: two evening sessions as well as outreach visits, offering practical (hot meals, clothing, toiletries) and emotional support.
33	Touchstone (Sikh Elders)	BME – Older People	Citywide	Buddying, food shopping and home deliveries and associated volunteer costs. Winter Warmth interactive day at Apna Day Centre e.g. advice in Punjabi, exercise session and food packs.
34	Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST)	BME – women and children	LS 6/7/8/9/10/11	Increase capacity of weekly craft & support group through funding materials/ transport/ volunteer/ professional trainer costs, plus warm blankets for members.
35	Zest Health for Life	Families	LS6/7/8/9/10	3 Winter Warmth events in Meanwood/Moortown. 3 older people drop-ins at the Leeds Let's Change centre in Kirkgate Market, low cost winter warmth items.

Appendix B,

NICE Recommendations on Excess Winter Deaths and the Health Risks Associated With Cold Homes

1. Develop a strategy
2. Ensure there is a single point-of-contact health and housing referral service for people living in cold homes
3. Provide tailored solutions via the single point-of-contact health and housing referral service for people living in cold homes
4. Identify people at risk of health from living in a cold home
5. Make every contact count by assessing the heating needs of people who use primary health and home care services
6. Non-health and social care workers who visit people at home should assess their heating needs
7. Discharge vulnerable people from health or social care settings to a warm home
8. Train health and social care practitioners to help people whose homes may be too cold
9. Train housing professionals and faith and voluntary sector workers to help people whose homes may be too cold for their health and wellbeing
10. Train heating engineers, meter installers and those providing building insulation to help vulnerable people at home
11. Raise awareness among practitioners and the public about how to keep warm at home
12. Ensure buildings meet ventilation and other building and trading standards