

Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat Local Authority 'Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent'

Version 3

The Northants Warm Homes Partnership (NWHP);
North Northamptonshire Council
West Northamptonshire Council

Date of publication: 1st April 2021

URL: www.northantswarmhomes.com/about

1.0 Introduction

The Northants Warm Homes Partnership (NWHP) welcomes the introduction of flexible eligibility and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty in North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire. It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors.

Inclusion in a 'Declaration of Eligibility' issued by the NWHP to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on

- i) identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat
- ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation, and
- iii) whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

In identifying households as eligible under flexible eligibility NWHP is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to including them in a Declaration. NWHP expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, to comply with the Data Protection Act (1998) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat, and to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place.

2.0 How NWHP intends to identify eligible households

NWHP will identify households, living in the private sector, that qualify for Declarations of Eligibility in two ways:

- those living on a low income that also face high heating costs
- those living on a low income that are also vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.



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In the following sections we set out the criteria we will use for determining *Low Income, High Costs and Vulnerability to the Cold*. In issuing a Declaration of Eligibility, we will need to evidence that the household is either;

- low income AND high heating cost, *or*
- low income AND vulnerable to the cold.

2.1 Identifying low income

Subject to availability of resources within the Council/s and the legal use of data the Council/s will target those most in need having regard to Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) guidance on targeting, including;

- i. Low income as defined in the table below (source; BEIS)
- ii. In receipt of Local Council Tax support

Household Composition	After housing costs* equivalised income thresholds (annual)
1 adult	£9,300
And 1 child	£12,200
And 2 children	£15,000
And 3 children	£18,000
And 4 children or more	£21,000
2 adults	£15,200
And 1 child	£18,200
And 2 children	£21,100
And 3 children	£24,100
And 4 children or more	£26,800

*After Council tax, mortgage or rent has been removed

2.2 Identifying High Heat Costs

- iii. Energy Performance Certificates with a rating of E, F or G
- iv. Presence of prepayment meters, expenditure on fuel, housing type/age/condition such as park homes and non-traditional built homes, and heating type such as electrically heated homes, oil or LPG heating
- v. Low income households living in energy inefficient housing will be identified in the private rented sector through enforcement activity under the Housing Act 2004 and where relevant; the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.

2.3 Identifying vulnerability to cold

The following characteristics reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

These characteristics are stated as;

- i. Aged over 60, and particularly those over 75
- ii. Children under 5 and pregnant mothers
- iii. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)

- iv. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- v. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- vi. Substance misusers
- vii. Dementia
- viii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- ix. Cancer
- x. Limited mobility
- xi. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xii. Severe learning disabilities
- xiii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

In addition to this we will consider residents affected by

- xiv. Musculoskeletal conditions (incl. arthritis, limited mobility)
- xv. Recently attended hospital due to a fall
- xvi. Personal circumstances will be taken into account

2.4 Solid wall insulation “in-fill” projects

Where potential works have been identified households will be supported to take advantage of “in-fill” projects where the minimum number of vulnerable households is met.

3.0 Governance

The following officers below will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of their local authority.

Corby area, Northants Northants Council	Housing Technical Officer	envprotect.ENC@northnorthants.gov.uk
Daventry area, West Northants Council	Environmental Improvement Officer	environmentalimprovement.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk
East Northamptonshire area, North Northants Council	Housing Technical Officer	envprotect.ENC@northnorthants.gov.uk
Kettering area, North Northants Council	Private Sector Housing Manager	privatesectorhousing.KBC@northnorthants.gov.uk
Northampton area, West Northants Council	Senior Adaptations Officer	privatesectorhousing.nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk
South Northamptonshire area, West Northants Council	Private Sector Housing Team Leader	pshousing.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk
Wellingborough area, North Northants Council	Housing Technician / Senior Housing Technician	privateSectorHousing.BCW@northnorthants.gov.uk

4.0 Referrals

Northants Warm Homes is a partnership between the two councils of Northamptonshire. The partnership provides help and advice to all residents of Northamptonshire who want to lower their fuel bills through insulation and other home energy improvements. For further information visit www.northantswarmhomes.com

5.0 Evidence, monitoring and reporting

- i. Anonymised data on the characteristics of households reached through Flexible Eligibility will be reviewed.
- ii. The data above will include details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible and ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements.
- iii. All households for whom declarations were made will be contacted within 28 days.
- iv. Internal audit of this process will take place by the Northants Warm Homes Partnership Officers and will be reported on an annual basis.

6.0 Name and Signatures of the Chief Executive Officers

Rob Bridge, Chief Executive, North Northamptonshire Council



Anna Earnshaw, Chief Executive – West Northamptonshire Council



7.0 Contact details for general enquiries

Giovanna Bezzina
Housing Technical Officer
North Northamptonshire Council
envprotect.ENC@northnorthants.gov.uk