

Chorley Council Statement of Intent for ECO Flexible Eligibility

Overview

This Statement of Intent has been developed with the intention of supporting the Council to participate in ECO (Energy Company Obligation) flexible eligibility.

It sets out the criteria that the Council will use in making declarations under Flexible Eligibility and the delivery arrangements in place, in line with guidance to Local Authorities issued by the Department for Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

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1. Introduction

Chorley Council has a long standing corporate commitment to addressing Fuel Poverty. A corporate target exists for the levels of Fuel Poverty within Chorley to be lower than those of North West England. To date this target has been met on each occasion since its introduction in 2014.

The Council recognises the importance of Affordable Warmth as a vital contributory factor to enable the local population to achieve and maintain positive standards of health and wellbeing.

The most recent set of Fuel Poverty data currently available (relating to 2016) shows Chorley to have the fifth lowest rates of Fuel Poverty in NW England at 10.6% of households.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2018>

The Council is an established member of the Lancashire Home Energy Officers' Group and, over recent years, has collaborated with other Lancashire Districts on various initiatives and funding bids, including:

- Collective Energy Switching Project (partly funded through DECC)
- Cosy Homes in Lancashire project
- DECC Central Heating Fund
- NEA Warm Homes Fund

The Council has also operated stand-alone projects including:

- Energy Switching Support Service (face to face switching advice and assistance for Chorley residents, in operation from June 2014 to date)
- Affordable Warmth projects (following successful annual funding bids to Lancashire County Council)

Flexible Eligibility is a means for a Local Authority to make an application for a range of energy efficiency measures for qualifying residents through a declaration to an energy company on behalf of the resident.

Chorley Council anticipates that Flexible Eligibility will bring energy efficiency measures to residents that have traditionally not qualified for help in the past because they were not on an appropriate benefit. **When the Council makes a declaration on behalf of a resident this is not a guarantee that a measure will be installed.**

The final decision will rest with the energy supplier who will take into account a number of factors including the savings that can be achieved by the resident as well as whether the energy supplier(s) have already reached their target. Where properties are rented from private landlords the property must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E or above in order to potentially qualify for a wider range of ECO measures.

2. How Chorley Council intends to identify eligible households

A) Criteria for identifying households living in fuel poverty

The [CSE fuel poverty](#) calculator will be used to identify households living with a low income and high fuel costs and, therefore deemed to be fuel poor.

OR

Households located in the most deprived 25% Lower Super Output Areas of Chorley (LSOAs) and with savings less than £16,000

Anyone with savings over £16,000 will **not** qualify for help

B) Criteria for identifying households living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home

Households will be eligible for funding if they meet at least one of the following vulnerabilities and have savings of less than £16,000.

Vulnerabilities:

- people with a diagnosed cardiovascular conditions
- people with a diagnosed respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with diagnosed mental health conditions
- people with diagnosed disabilities
- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (from new born to school age)

- pregnant women
- people who are terminally ill
- people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)
- people who have mobility issues and have attended hospital due to a fall

The following vulnerable groups will be considered on referral from a professional organisation:

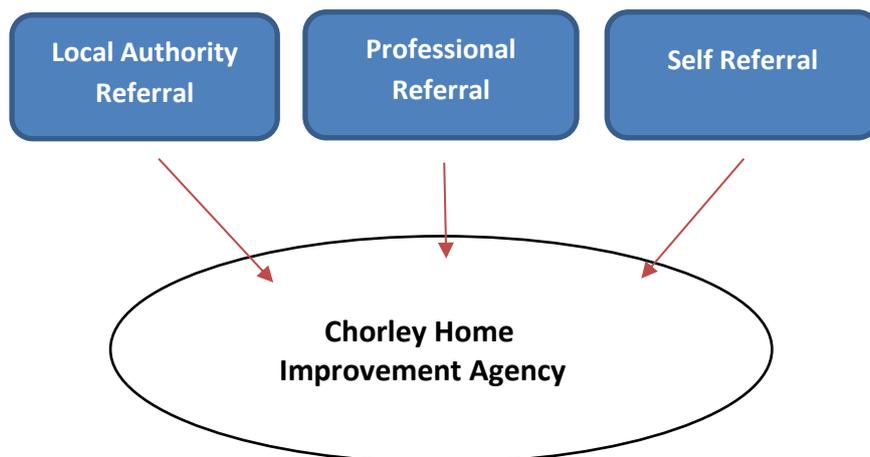
- people who move in and out of homelessness
- people with dependencies such as alcohol and/or drugs

3. Governance

The Housing Team Leader (Private Sector) will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of Chorley Council.

4. Referrals

Referrals will be coordinated through Chorley Council’s Home Improvement Agency (HIA) team



5. Signatures

Chorley Borough Council

Name: Chris Sinnott

Role: Deputy Chief Executive & Director (Early Intervention and Support)

Signature: 