

Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat

Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local authority:

Warm & Well is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council

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URL: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/environment/energy-efficiency/home-energy-conservation/>

1) Introduction

South Gloucestershire Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility (FE) and intend to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty in the area.

South Gloucestershire Council is committed to achieving affordable warmth and alleviating fuel poverty. South Gloucestershire Council has displayed their commitment in this field through funding the Warm & Well scheme since 2001. The Warm & Well scheme is a key delivery mechanism as part of Severn Wye Energy Agency, to reduce fuel poverty, reduce excess winter deaths, increase rates of retrofit of energy efficiency measures, and stimulate the local economy. In 2017, South Gloucestershire and the local authorities in Gloucestershire extended their commitment to the scheme by a further three years, to fund the project until 2020.

South Gloucestershire Council strives to enable vulnerable people to live affordably and comfortably in their own homes, independently for longer, thus reducing costs to social care budgets. This Statement of Intent will assist in meeting government targets in carbon emissions, as well as increasing the comfort of residents in their homes, provide savings to the NHS and reduce the rates of fuel poverty.

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 local authority 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, Warm & Well is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to including them in local authority declarations. All the authorities expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, comply with the Data Protection Act, 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. These are covered in a separate memorandum of understanding between the Council and the obligated party.

2) How South Gloucestershire Council under Warm and Well intends to identify eligible households

The Warm & Well scheme has been running across Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire since 2001 and aims to improve energy efficiency in the home and reduce the risk of fuel poverty and associated health problems by addressing central issues such as the links between energy efficiency, affordable warmth, cold living conditions and health risks and condensation damp related respiratory illness.

Warm & Well, on behalf of South Gloucestershire, will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility. The householder has to be a Private Sector tenant or an owner occupier.

Warm and Well on behalf of the South Gloucestershire Council will keep the criteria below under review, in relation to the number of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities.

Residents will be eligible for Flexible Eligibility where they meet the following criteria:

- I. Low income, High Costs but not in receipt of benefits
- II. Low income and Vulnerability to Cold
- III. Living in areas of high deprivation, but not in receipt of benefits
- IV. Solid Wall insulation (SWI) 'in-fill'

Warm and Well and South Gloucestershire Council will reserve the right to flexibility when determining eligibility around the thresholds and criteria set out below, where they have evidence that residents are struggling financially.

I. LOW INCOME + HIGH COSTS

Households must have an annual income under these thresholds **AND** an EPC rating of E, F, G (or equivalent) to be eligible.

Definition: Low Income thresholds (disposable income after paid rent or mortgage. All income from all sources savings and investments, pensions, all benefits incl. housing benefit).

Household composition		Number of Dependants				
		0	1	2	3	4
One Adult	Annual Net income	£10,000	£12,500	£15,000	£17,500	£20,000
	Monthly equivalent	£833.00	£1,042.00	£1,250.00	£1,458.00	£1,667.00
Two or more Adults	Annual Net income	£16,000	£18,500	£21,000	£23,500	£26,000
	Monthly equivalent	£1,333.00	£1,542.00	£1,750.00	£1,958.00	£2,167.00

AND

An **EPC OF E,F,G** (where there is no EPC rating for the property then use guidance below). Households that reach or exceed a score of **6** points will be deemed to be high cost.

Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are there in the home?	1	0
	2	1
	3	2
	4	3
What type of property is it?	Flat	1
	Mid Terrace	2
	Semi-detached/ End Terrace	3
	Detached House	4
	Park home	5
Was the home built before 1964?	Yes	1
	No	0
What is the main wall type	Solid - uninsulated	4
	Solid - insulated	0
	Cavity - not filled	4
	Cavity - filled	0
What is the main heating type?	Gas Central Heating	0
	Gas Room Heaters	2
	Oil/LPG	2
	Electricity	3
	Other	3
Heating system completely broken down?	Yes	6
	No	0

II. EXPANDED LOW INCOME + VULNERABILITY

Households must have an annual income under these thresholds **AND** a 'Vulnerability' (listed below) to be eligible.

Definition: Low Income thresholds (disposable income after paid rent or mortgage. All income from all sources savings and investments, pensions, all benefits incl. housing benefit).

The income threshold figures below are based on additional costs required for heating an inefficient property during the day and living with a health condition.

Household composition		Number of Dependants				
		0	1	2	3	4
One Adult	Annual Net income	£16,000	£18,500	£21,000	£23,500	£26,000
	<i>Monthly equivalent</i>	<i>£1,333.00</i>	<i>£1,542.00</i>	<i>£1,750.00</i>	<i>£1,958.00</i>	<i>£2,167.00</i>
Two or more Adults	Annual Net income	£22,000	£24,500	£27,000	£29,500	£32,000
	<i>Monthly equivalent</i>	<i>£1,833.00</i>	<i>£2,042.00</i>	<i>£2,250.00</i>	<i>£2,458.00</i>	<i>£2,667.00</i>

AND

Vulnerability defined as:	Aged over 60, and particularly those over 75
	Children under 5 and pregnant mothers
	Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
	Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
	Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
	Substance misusers
	Dementia
	Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
	Cancer
	Limited mobility
	Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
	Severe learning disabilities
	Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

III. IMD AREAS

Households located in LSOAs in the lowest 25% of Index of Multiple Deprivation Rank will be considered as eligible for funding.

Local authorities will also be able to nominate further areas where additional need has been identified.

IV. SOLID WALL INSULATION (SWI) “IN-FILL” PROJECTS

To increase the economies of scale of SWI projects, solid wall homes which are not ‘fuel poor’ will be eligible for Flexible ECO funding, where they are co-located with a minimum percentage of households assessed to be fuel poor or LIVC.

Criteria will be:

- Semi-detached houses/bungalows – at least 50% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Same terrace – at least 66% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Same building – at least 66% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Adjacent properties - at least 66% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC

3) Governance

Responsible officer

The SOI will be signed on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council by the Chief Executive.

Name: Amanda Deeks

Job title: Chief Executive

Telephone: 01454 868009

Email: amanda.deeks@southglos.gov.uk

The following local officer will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of their local authorities

Local Authority	Name	Job Title	E-mail
South Gloucestershire Council	Chris Gillett	Private Sector Housing Team	chris.gillett@southglos.gov.uk

4) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Warm and Well will capture and store all relevant information during the initial enquiry to determine the relevant course of action for the household. Warm and Well will inform residents that they may be required to provide evidence of income and medical/health

conditions and other information such as any relevant health conditions at a later date to deter fraudulent claims.

Auditing of eligibility of claimants will be assessed by a random sample of households on a post installation basis.

Warm and Well will provide key information. The data above will include details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible and ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements.

All households for whom Declarations were made will be contacted three months post installation.

5) Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Deeks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Amanda Deeks
Chief Executive