

## Alleviating Fuel Poverty in London

Joint submission to London Assembly Health and Public Services Committee's enquiry into Fuel Poverty

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### 1 Summary

**Fuel Poverty is an issue affecting 1.05 million<sup>1</sup> (32%<sup>2</sup>) London households and is predicted to rise. An average of 3,710 Londoners die every year as a result of living in a cold home<sup>3</sup> and there are over 23,000 additional emergency hospital admissions and almost 93,000 additional attendances at outpatient care<sup>4</sup>.**

Cold homes are detrimental to both the physical and mental health of Londoners of all ages and all socio-economic groups. This issue has been discussed in a number of documents produced by the Greater London Authority (GLA), and the London Assembly<sup>5</sup>. However, new figures released by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) show that Fuel Poverty has risen in recent years and, is expected to rise further<sup>6</sup>, largely due to rising fuel prices and other pressures on incomes.

The organisations involved in this submission feel that Fuel Poverty can and should be dramatically reduced and even eradicated in London. This is a realistic ambition, and there are actions that can be taken to achieve it through interventions regarding fuel prices, household income and domestic energy efficiency as outlined in the recommendations outlined in **Section 4**.

**Appendix A** highlights examples of previous work of authors' agencies on this issue

**Appendix B** contains case studies of local Fuel Poverty interventions from London and around the country.

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<sup>1</sup> UKACE et al (2008) Fuel Poverty in London: Figures and tables illustrating the challenge of tackling fuel poverty- Final Report. GLA. From figure 10

<sup>2</sup> Denominator = 3,296,100 households in Greater London in 2011 from 2010 Round of Demographic Projections - SHLAA

Available at: [http://data.london.gov.uk/datafiles/demographics/2010rnd\\_shlaa\\_hh\\_projections.xls](http://data.london.gov.uk/datafiles/demographics/2010rnd_shlaa_hh_projections.xls)

<sup>3</sup> Office for National Statistics (2010), Excess winter mortality by age group, 2009/10.

Available at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=7089>

<sup>4</sup> Age UK (2010), Excess winter deaths: preventing an avoidable tragedy.

[http://www.ageuk.org.uk/pagefiles/2013/excess\\_winter\\_deaths\\_report\\_oct10.pdf](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/pagefiles/2013/excess_winter_deaths_report_oct10.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Environment Committee (2008) Lagging Behind: Insulating London homes. London Assembly.

Mayor of London (2010) The London Housing Strategy. GLA

Mayor of London (2010) The London Health Inequalities Strategy. GLA

Mayor of London (2010) Delivering London's energy future: The Mayor's draft Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Strategy for public consultation. GLA

<sup>6</sup> DECC (2011) Fuel Poverty Statistics 2011. Released 14 July 2011. Available at:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov\\_stats/fuelpov\\_stats.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx)

## **2 Background and purpose**

A number of the authors of this paper were present as panel guests or spectators at the recent London Assembly's Health and Public Services Committee enquiry into Fuel Poverty. A wealth of evidence and information was presented on the serious impacts of fuel poverty on London families and what has and can be done to try and alleviate it. As suggested by the Committee, the purpose of this paper is to outline the action that needs to be taken for London (**section 4**).

## **3 Evidence of the impacts of cold homes and Fuel Poverty**

It is not the purpose of this paper to repeat evidence presented to the Committee, but a number of pieces of work completed by the author organisations are listed in **Appendix A**.

## **4 Recommendations for action to be taken on cold homes and Fuel Poverty for London**

We have three overarching recommendations under which all our others (i-xiv below) sit. As such, we urge the Mayor to take specific actions on the following issues in the following order in the box below

### **Recommendation 1 - Fuel prices**

Fuel prices continue to rise, without tighter controls and demands on fuel companies to keep prices affordable it will be very difficult to eradicate or reduce fuel poverty which is projected to increase. It is not sufficient to give payments to fuel poor households – these payments go to subsidise fuel companies. We urge the Mayor to lobby for action to reduce fuel prices and not to continue to subsidise energy companies.

### **Recommendation 2 - Household income**

In times of increased unemployment and cuts to welfare spending it is very important that household incomes are sufficient to enable householders to keep their homes warm. This is a particular problem in London due to the increased cost of living in the capital. We urge the Mayor to continue his work in this area.

### **Recommendation 3 - Domestic energy efficiency**

To address both fuel poverty and climate change it is important that improvements are made to the energy efficiency of homes, an activity that is challenging but not impossible in London. Domestic energy efficiency interventions should be based on evidence of what works from previous activities.

**Appendix B** highlights a number of case studies of local Fuel Poverty interventions from London and around the country. We would like to point out that despite these good examples, fuel poverty continues to rise. The following individual actions are suggested by the authors and their organisations, **they should be viewed in the context of the main overarching recommendations in the box above**

- i. The Mayor should create a Roadmap to Warmth for London, setting out action required to eradicate or substantially reduce fuel poverty in the capital by a given date. The level of reduction should be established. London's boroughs through the organisation London Councils, social housing providers, private landlord representatives and others should be included in this roadmap creation.
- ii. Fuel poverty should be mapped across London using the GLA's residual income definition rather than the government's full income definition which artificially inflates a household's income rather than looking at disposable income, and therefore does not give a true indication of ability-to-pay. Such an approach would give a truer picture of the incidence of fuel poverty, thereby enabling more intelligent targeting.
- iii. The sharing of data on the location of fuel poor households and potential for measures is recommended on a London-wide basis to ensure that the assistance available through the

forthcoming ECO programme and other schemes is targeted as effectively as possible to avoid defraying to non-fuel poor households.

- iv. A London energy obligation should be set. This should deliver funding to London proportionate to its population although additional funding to reflect London's high proportion of hard to treat homes would be beneficial. Priority for assistance should be given to low income and vulnerable households living in hard-to-treat homes. The Secretary of State has the power to set such an obligation and the Mayor should lobby him to do so.
- v. Affordable Warmth Zones should be established across London with core funding from the GLA. Similar to Low Carbon Zones but focused on tackling fuel poverty in the domestic sector, these would aim to significantly improve the energy efficiency of vulnerable households. The authors would welcome the opportunity to explore a range of interventions that Affordable Warm Zones should include.
- vi. With the removal of benefit entitlement checks from Warm Front assessments and significant welfare benefit changes due, it is imperative that income maximisation is retained in all schemes to address fuel poverty.
- vii. NHS London and the London Health Improvement Board should take action to ensure that health and social care partners are aware of the importance of 'prescribing warmth' and that efforts are made to firmly link the fuel poverty and seasonal mortality agendas. We would suggest that programmes similar to SHINE in Islington or WISH in Camden are profiled as best practice.
- viii. The Excess Cold Hazard within the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) scheme should be tightened to make F and G rated homes automatically Category 1 to assist fuel poor Londoners in private rented housing. The Mayor should lobby for legislation to ensure this. Cross-borough working should be encouraged and facilitated to identify and work with landlords that own large numbers of thermally inefficient properties and to share information and best practice.
- ix. Figures published by the Energy Saving Trust (released on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011) show that the five local authorities that have seen the lowest percentage of the housing stock insulated over the past three years through CERT are in London<sup>7</sup>. With London clearly lagging behind urgent action is needed. One simple proposal that could help to encourage a more rapid roll out for delivery would be to ensure that contractors and delivery teams under; CERT, CESP, Warm Zones, RE:NEW and other Local Authority led schemes' are exempt from certain parking and road-use charges. This would enable them to get to jobs faster as well as improving public visibility for the sector.
- x. With a large number of difficult and potentially more expensive to treat properties in London, we are concerned that the Golden Rule for the Green Deal is less likely to be met for many Londoners. There is a possibility that a large share of the Energy Company Obligation will then be allocated to subsidising measures for more affluent households rather than being available to assist low income and vulnerable households, many of whom will be considered less 'credit worthy' to Green Deal providers, or who will take the savings in improved comfort rather than cost. We propose that a portion of the Energy Company Obligation is reserved for low income or vulnerable households and that the Mayor lobby for this.
- xi. As social housing providers in London are unlikely to be able to use Green Deal financing mechanisms to fund the large and small scale solid wall insulation schemes needed for a significant proportion of their stock, alternative financing mechanisms are needed that do not require local authorities to significantly add to their borrowing. It is recommended that a London-wide social housing solid wall financing mechanism is developed centrally that draws in various sources of capital such as EU funding like JESSICA, Energy Company

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<sup>7</sup> City of London (<0.1%); Westminster (0.3%); Kensington and Chelsea (0.8%); Hackney (1.3%); Hammersmith and Fulham (1.6%)

Obligations and borrowing. As the technical solutions required to address energy efficiency are not always a 'one-size-fits-all' approach, a degree of flexibility in the measures required within an Energy Company Obligation is recommended, for example replacing panels in prefabricated flats as opposed to retrofitting solid wall insulation.

- xii. The Mayor and GLA should back the Friends of the Earth-led campaign for energy efficiency improvements in the private rented sector. More than 20% of London residents rent privately, compared to an England average of less than 13%, and this number continues to grow. In 2006 40% of private rented homes failed to meet the Decent Homes Standard and the energy efficiency standards of such housing continues to lag behind other tenures.
- xiii. A financing mechanisms advisory service for local authorities and other social housing providers should be developed to provide expert social housing sector advice and hand-holding as well as best practice-sharing.
- xiv. The GLA and London Councils should establish a London-wide affordable warmth information exchange that offers technical information, advice on installers that operate in London, advice on London-specific legal issues such as leaseholder or conservation issues, improving hard to treat homes and guidance on working with hard to reach communities.

**Appendix A – Work of author’s agencies on Fuel Poverty** (not exhaustive)

Fernow, I. & Kolm-Murray, J. (2011), No More Lagging Behind: Securing London’s Fair Share of Insulation Funding. London Carbon Action Network

Islington Council & NHS Islington (2010), Seasonal Health & Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Available at:

[https://www.islington.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/sus\\_awarmth/affordable\\_warmth.asp](https://www.islington.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/sus_awarmth/affordable_warmth.asp)

Islington Council & NHS Islington: Seasonal Health Interventions Network (SHINE)

<http://www.islington.gov.uk/seasonalhealth>

Islington Council: IssyClad Project

<http://www.nea.org.uk/islington-housing-scheme-wins-environmental-award>

Marmot Review Team (2011) Fair Society, Healthy Lives

Marmot Review Team (2011) The Health Impacts of Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty. London: Friends of the Earth and the Marmot Review Team.

Available at: <http://www.marmotreview.org/reviews/cold-homes-and-health-report.aspx>

National Energy Action (2011) NEA London Fuel Poverty Briefing. Issue 5: January 2011

Available at: <http://www.nea.org.uk/assets/London-FP-Briefing-2011.pdf>

National Energy Action (2011) PRESS PACK

Available at: <http://www.nea.org.uk/assets/PDF-documents/Press-Pack-2011-final-England.pdf>

National Energy Action have many related publications available at

<http://www.nea.org.uk/publication-list/>, also contact [Piya.malik@nea.org.uk](mailto:Piya.malik@nea.org.uk) for any further information

## **Appendix B – UK Case studies of local Fuel Poverty interventions**

### **London Borough of Islington**

Since the adoption of an Affordable Warmth Strategy in 2009 Islington Council has made energy efficiency improvements to over 15,000 homes, saving residents at least £1.8 million per year at today's energy prices. The borough has its own Energy Advice Team who advise over 3,000 residents of Islington and Camden each year on energy efficiency, grants available and fuel debt. From September 2011 the advice service will also cover Hackney.

The Safe & Warm grant scheme provides funding for heating and insulation improvements, and the Energy Doctor in the Home fits smaller energy saving measures such as draughtproofing and radiator panels. The Energy Doctor in the Community visits community venues and delivers workshops on draught proofing, curtain lining, managing energy bills and keeping cool in the heat.

Islington's housing stock is primarily solid-walled or otherwise hard to treat and a project is being run at present to insulate a number of Victorian properties. Extensive mapping is being carried out of the borough's housing stock to identify areas for potential joint programmes with other social landlords. A large-scale solar energy scheme is also planned.

The Council is starting a project focussing on vulnerable people in poor private sector housing in one of the most deprived wards of the borough, Finsbury Park. Community groups and health providers will be involved and proactive surveys of properties will be undertaken to find those properties where hazards, including excess cold, exist.

In December 2010 the Council and PCT started a comprehensive and integrated programme to tackle fuel poverty and reduce excess winter deaths and hospital admissions. Vulnerable residents are referred by health, social care and voluntary sector partners through the Seasonal Health Interventions Network (SHINE). They are then assessed for a range of 23 interventions such as affordable warmth, benefit checks, falls assessments and medicines use reviews. By the end of July 2011 615 referrals had been received leading to thousands of health and wellbeing interventions. The project has secured NHS Reablement Funding as a cost-effective means of delivering large numbers of preventative interventions to vulnerable residents with a history of admissions or a significant risk of admission.

### **Kent County Council**

Kent County Council and other partnership agencies are working together to produce a single and effective referral point for Kent residents to maximise the energy efficiency of their home and reduce fuel poverty. Current systems operate disparately and in silos offering different schemes depending on a number of factors which make it confusing for residents to understand what support is available.

There are also a large number of agencies (eg. Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Home Improvement Agencies, Age Concern, Kent Benefits Partnership, Pensions Service and Occupational Health), providing in-home support and advice for Kent residents, primarily targeted at the elderly, vulnerable and those living in poor housing. Whilst the level of in-home support is very high (over 50,000 visits per annum), the level of complimentary referrals generated for energy efficiency is extremely low. Where referrals are generated it is mainly dependent on individual officers rather than a formal system, but all the agencies contacted for the report perceived that a single referral process for Kent would be a positive development.

### **Portsmouth City Council**

The project was undertaken to educate people working with vulnerable older adults to impact on mortality rates in the winter time and that these deaths could potentially be avoidable.

The training itself raises awareness of the health challenges faced by people not appropriately protected from the cold in their own homes.

**\*\*the following examples were collated by the Local Government Association<sup>8</sup> and reprinted here with thanks to Abigail Burridge\*\***

### **Burnley Borough Council**

In 1998, Burnley Borough Council introduced the 'CRISP' scheme to reduce the incidence of fuel poverty, improve standards of energy efficiency and improve the health and welfare of households in the Borough.

In 2000, Burnley Borough Council was providing grants of up to £800 to improve the homes of residents aged over 60 or on means-tested benefits, in addition to Warm Front grants. In 2004, the CRISP scheme became part of the Burnley 'Switch into Savings' scheme, integrating a number of different private sector energy efficiency and heating initiatives into one programme. The £150,000 per year 'CRISP' grant programme is targeted at wards with the highest levels of fuel poverty on a ward-by-ward, street-by-street basis. The programme also provided a subsidy to reduce the cost of loft or wall insulation for all residents to £75.

The CRISP scheme has contributed significantly towards achieving Burnley's Home Energy Conservation Act target of target of a 30% improvement over 10-15 years by 2011<sup>i</sup>. It acts as a 'safety net' for households in fuel poverty whom may not be eligible for the Governments Warm Front grant that is worth up to £2,700. Since 1998, a total of £1.6 million has been spent on the scheme improving the energy efficiency of 5,252 Burnley households. This includes 3,467 lofts insulated, 1,724 cavity walls insulated, 1,727 houses draught proofed and 878 hot water tanks insulated.

### **London Borough of Croydon**

Since 2006, as part of a scheme run with British Gas, Croydon Council residents can insulate their cavity walls or lofts at a discounted price and receive a £100 credit toward their next year's council tax bill. The rebate is part funded by the Council (£40) and part by British Gas (£60)<sup>ii</sup>. Nearly 1,300 households have taken up the offer, resulting in annual emissions savings of more than 210 tCO<sub>2</sub>.

### **South Lakeland District Council**

For ten years, South Lakeland District Council has operated a local energy efficiency scheme. All private sector households which contain someone who is over 60 or under 16 years of age are able to access free loft and cavity wall insulation. All private rented households are also eligible

The scheme is very successful, not only tackling fuel poverty issues, but also reducing carbon emissions. South Lakeland has over 8000 households off the mains gas network, with significant use of carbon rich oil and coal for space heating<sup>iii</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Local Government Group (2001) Warm and healthy homes: How councils are helping householders improve the energy efficiency of their homes  
Available at: [http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=fa7ecd27-9571-4d30-bb20-a267870461a6&groupId=10161](http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=fa7ecd27-9571-4d30-bb20-a267870461a6&groupId=10161)

In the last financial year, works have been carried out at 745 dwellings at a cost to this Council of £192,400 and an estimated carbon dioxide saving of 438 tonnes each year.

### **Greater Manchester**

The UK Public Health Association and Greater Manchester Fuel Poverty Initiative<sup>iv</sup> has established a central point of contact for fuel poverty and other housing-related referrals, with the aim of reducing health inequalities by improving energy efficiency and housing conditions. The Affordable Warmth Access and Referral Mechanism<sup>v</sup> (AWARM) brings together the services and grants available from councils, central government and energy suppliers to better target vulnerable people identified by primary care trusts, social services and third sector organisations.

Since April 2008, 1,350 households have been referred to AWARM and have received a range of services including energy advice and Warm Front<sup>vi</sup> grants. Referrals have led to heating and insulation installations with a value of more than £650,000 that will deliver lifetime fuel bill savings exceeding £2.1 million

### **Blackpool City Council**

Blackpool has been working in partnership with NHS Blackpool to find their residents most vulnerable to the effects of fuel poverty by including information in the NHS flu-mailing lists. This has been very successful. Blackpool are seeking to build on this success by linking up with local GPs to pilot direct referrals of vulnerable people to local energy efficiency and insulation programmes.

Blackpool has found that a very high number of vulnerable residents live in private rented accommodation, often in the most deprived wards of Blackpool. The majority of these properties are classified as hard to treat and in poor condition, and are also inhabited by older residents on low incomes. A jointly funded initiative between Blackpool Council, NHS Blackpool and Age Concern, is the 'Counter Attack Services'<sup>vii</sup> sitting within Blackpool's Care & Repair Agency. 'Counter Attack' provides a complete service to vulnerable residents by providing them with benefits advice, completing applications with them to maximise their income, giving fuel provider advice, energy efficiency advice, home safety checks, as well as many other services that Care & Repair offer. The partnership has just received funding from Scottish Power to fund outreach staff to set up a network of energy champions to provide further health and other advice to Blackpool's most vulnerable residents.

The Council considers itself in a unique position to deliver on health and environmental agendas. They have the data and understanding of what is required in the area, where the worst properties are and with the most vulnerable residents. Blackpool Council has access to ownership details and has no other agenda other than improving housing stock and life chances of their residents.

### **Sheffield City Council**

Sheffield City Council are offering free insulation to thousands of private homes in an ambitious initiative to reduce the city's carbon footprint and cut fuel poverty among local people. The scheme is being rolled out on an area by area basis. However, the Council want to fast track those people who need it most across Sheffield. Therefore, those aged 70 or over - or on qualifying benefits - are also eligible, wherever they live in the city<sup>viii</sup>.

Since the scheme started in April 2009 Sheffield has signed up nearly 28,000 households across the city. Over 13,000 households across Sheffield have received installations. Working with Eaga Insulation (now Carillion Energy<sup>ix</sup>), they've identified or installed 4,622 cavity walls and 12,042 loft insulation measures so far.

By insulating homes the Council aims to prevent cold related diseases and reduce the number of winter deaths from fuel poverty.

The project aims to cover the whole city, ward by ward, street by street over the next few years.

The scheme is being funded by the Council, alongside funding for Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) which has come from the Council's partner Scottish Power. Residents wanting to benefit from the scheme simply need to contact the council on a free contact number. The rest is done by the Council – absolutely free!

### **Worcestershire County Council**

Worcestershire is a predominantly rural county with some large urban centres. Some of their rural areas are off-grid, and so rely exclusively on heating oil, LPG, or solid fuel to heat their properties. Worcestershire predicts that over a quarter of their population will be over 60 years of age by the end of 2011.

In 2008 Worcestershire Council started the 'Warmer Worcestershire' project<sup>x</sup>. This project conducted a thermal image aerial survey of the County to promote the work of the project. This information was invaluable in helping the council talk with the public and helped engage local residents with the issue of energy in their area.

Each District Council in Worcestershire collects benefit data which is cross-referenced with the worst performing properties on the thermal imaging map. This allows the council to identify householder and who may be at greatest risk from fuel poverty. These householders are then given information on grants and how to improve their properties. Worcester City Council housing is provided grants for free installation to properties in a deprived area of the city, personally inviting each resident to take up the offer.

### **Kirklees Council**

Kirklees has used Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) generated from re-lets of privately rented properties to identify areas of fuel poverty in their privately-owned housing stock. To do this, Kirklees has used a sample of 2500 EPCs and has looked properties with a SAP rating of under 65 SAP, assuming that any properties below this rating could be experiencing fuel poverty. Even with Kirklees' extremely successful free home insulation programme, their figures have shown that approximately 13% of the private housing stock is at risk from fuel poverty. Kirklees has an ambition to treat all properties in fuel poverty by 2015.

Kirklees is running an external cladding scheme for non-traditional properties and have a gas-heating replacement scheme targeted at inefficient systems. Kirklees has also developed a scheme to deliver 1000 solar panels for fuel poor properties, (those below SAP 65), starting in summer 2011.

In partnership with Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Kirklees Council is proactive in its fuel poverty and climate change ambitions, supporting and authorising funds for schemes from their capital resources. This helps bring in funding from other sources, such as Energy Supplier Obligation funds and European Regional Development Funding (ERDF).

### **London Borough of Sutton**

Sutton council has adopted a highly ambitious vision to become a One Planet Living Borough<sup>xi</sup>. This includes a target to become zero carbon by 2025. A number of innovative programmes are underway to identify how borough wide retrofits of energy efficiency measures can be implemented - especially for hard to treat homes with solid walls which makes up most of the boroughs housing

stock. As part of this work Sutton piloted a Pay as You Save<sup>xii</sup> scheme which installed energy efficiency measures (including solid wall insulation) for homeowners through an interest free loan. The findings of the pilot will feed into the Government's new Green Deal scheme<sup>xiii</sup>.

Since 2006 Sutton has helped residents tackle fuel poverty by providing grants for energy efficiency works through its Coldbuster scheme<sup>xiv</sup>. Sutton also provides empty property grants, to upgrade the energy efficiency of homes. Currently Sutton is delivering a scheme of residential energy audits and funded energy efficiency measures under the Hackbridge Low Carbon Zone Scheme<sup>xv</sup>, so far the scheme has provided 2,365 energy efficiency measures since it began last year.

A similar government funded area based energy efficiency programme under the banner of Re:NEW<sup>xvi</sup> is also planned for later this year in the North Cheam/Worcester Park area. Within Hackbridge, Sutton council is working with developers to deliver a heat network to the area which will help reduce CO2 and energy costs to local residents. Within the social housing sector work is currently underway to implement a scheme to provide solar PV to all suitable housing which would provide the occupants with free solar electricity.

### **Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council**

Chester West and Chester is developing its Affordable Warmth Strategy which will draw on data from the Homes Energy Efficiency Database<sup>xvii</sup> (HEED), the local Private Sector Stock Condition Survey<sup>xviii</sup> and other local sources of data including council tax benefit recipients and Primary Care Trust (PCT) data on excess winter deaths. They currently offer grants of up to £100 towards the cost of both cavity wall and loft insulation to households where someone is aged between 60 to 69, not in receipt of "priority group" benefits and the property is in council tax bands A to D.

### **London Borough of Camden**

The make-up housing in Camden is predominately solid wall, so they have more "hard to heat" homes than the average. Camden also has a high percentage of private renters who are difficult to reach and identify as they are highly transient.

In targeting their Camden energy efficiency grants, Camden uses the CERT criteria for vulnerable people, and to understand the fuel poverty problem across their borough, they use DECC COA data and information from their 'Small Steps Sustainability Helpline'. The Council has both private sector energy efficiency and renewable energy grants and another energy efficiency grant for social housing, outside the repairs and maintenance budget. The Council has also installed cavity wall insulation in almost all of their cavity-walled blocks of council flats, funding the programme of works using a mixture of their own funds, CERT and grant funding. Camden also allocated £1.15M to install cavity wall insulation in privately owned blocks of flats in the borough.

In addition to these insulation schemes, Camden runs a scheme called WISH (Warmth, Income, Safety, Health) Plus for vulnerable residents<sup>xix</sup>. WISH works as an umbrella referral service, offering residents a range of services delivered by the Council as well as other organisations relating to warmth, income maximisation, safety and health. This scheme is funded by NHS Camden and costs £93k per year. Organisations offering services and support sign up to become WISH partners. Vulnerable residents can self refer to WISH or they can be referred by a WISH partner. In the last three quarters WISH plus referred almost 4000 residents onto support services, 620 of these were referred onto an affordable warmth services.

### **Walsall Council**

Walsall is targeting households with low income (under £21K) in their 'Health Through Warmth Grant'<sup>xx</sup>, in partnership with NPower and Walsall NHS, to tackle fuel poverty, cold related illnesses

and excess winter deaths. The scheme trains a wide range of workers, who visit people in their homes, to establish whether the clients they are visiting are suffering ill health as a result of living in a cold damp home.

This way of identifying those at risk from fuel poverty is preferred by the council to the requirement for households to be on a means-tested benefit, as poorer households that do not receive or apply for these benefits often miss out on grant aid. They also rely on referrals from local organisations including health services, Sure Start and Age UK.

The scheme also trains people such as health professionals, housing staff and community workers to recognise that the clients they visit are seriously ill, made worse because they live in a cold/damp home.

### **Bolton Council**

Fuel poverty in Bolton is recognised as a health issue – with life expectancy falling behind other parts of the country. This reduced life expectancy is caused by circulatory disease and respiratory disease (linked to fuel poverty) as well as some other causes.

Bolton has an energy efficiency scheme for the whole borough, but has also been leading on an area-based scheme to address fuel poverty, prioritised through the mapping of indices of multiple deprivation. This is in addition to a general scheme for the whole borough.

Bolton's PCT Public Health team have been involved in developing Bolton's Affordable Warmth Strategy, which was taken forward by the Health and Well-being Partnership of the Bolton Local Strategic Partnership. Health professionals of all disciplines have been trained in identifying fuel poverty, including health trainers, GPs, District Nurses, Midwives, etc. GPs can prescribe referrals to an energy efficiency advice centre with grants available for home energy efficiency improvement.

### **Eastleigh Borough Council**

To satisfy its commitment to operate on a virtual carbon neutral basis by the 2012 Olympics, Eastleigh Borough Council has allocated over £50,000 per year for the past 4 years to the CarbonFREE<sup>xxi</sup> scheme. Residents who are not otherwise eligible for free home insulation under national CERT schemes are offered either loft or cavity wall insulation, or both, at no cost.

This year the scheme is focussing particularly on helping to facilitate the insulation of both privately rented dwellings and large blocks of flats, where there are many vulnerable households who are in fact eligible for free insulation but have been unable to convince other – non-eligible - tenants to pay their share. Eastleigh Borough Council are covering the costs for the flats not eligible under CERT, and thus enabling, so far, one block of 20 flats, and another of 12, to have cavity wall insulation installed.

So far under CarbonFREE around 200 individual homes have been insulated, and another 250 households, including those in blocks, will benefit.

In addition, in 2010, Eastleigh Borough Council invited two local partners, the Wheatsheaf Trust<sup>xxii</sup> and the Environment Centre<sup>xxiii</sup>, to assist in organising a young persons' loft insulation training scheme. Support was obtained via the Future Jobs Fund<sup>xxiv</sup> and Scottish Power to offer to local residents who were over 60 both a loft clearance service and free insulation, even where they would otherwise have had to pay.

Finally Eastleigh is now a partner in the Hampshire wide area based insulation (ABI) scheme, 'Insulate Hampshire!', which is to be launched this summer. Under the scheme residents will be

offered both loft and/or cavity wall insulation for only £99, and Eastleigh Borough Council will share the excess costs with Hampshire County Council.

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- <sup>i</sup> [http://www.burnley.gov.uk/egov\\_downloads/Switch\\_onto\\_Savings\\_Appendix\\_1\\_26-09-06.pdf](http://www.burnley.gov.uk/egov_downloads/Switch_onto_Savings_Appendix_1_26-09-06.pdf)
- <sup>ii</sup> [http://www.keepcroydonwarm.org.uk/council\\_tax\\_offer.htm](http://www.keepcroydonwarm.org.uk/council_tax_offer.htm)
- <sup>iii</sup> <http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/services/housing/grants-for-private-properties/save-money-on-fuel-bills.aspx>
- <sup>iv</sup> <http://www.ukpha.org.uk/fuel-poverty.aspx>
- <sup>v</sup> <http://www.partnersinsalford.org/AWARM.htm>
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- <sup>viii</sup> <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/housing-services/environmental-sustainability/free-insulation-scheme>
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- <sup>x</sup> <http://www.warmerworcestershire.com/>
- <sup>xi</sup> <http://www.oneplanetsutton.org/>
- <sup>xii</sup> <http://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8580>
- <sup>xiii</sup> [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\\_we\\_do/consumers/green\\_deal/green\\_deal.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/green_deal/green_deal.aspx)
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