

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

14 March 2017

Report of the Director of Public Health

THE DERBYSHIRE HEALTHY HOME PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of the report:

To inform the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities about the achievements of the Derbyshire Healthy Home programme.

2. Information and analysis:

2.1 Background

There are an estimated 60,000 households across Derbyshire living in fuel poverty. Within this group are approximately 4,000 very vulnerable households containing people with a long term health condition made worse by the cold. These residents are at a significantly higher risk of illness and death as a result of cold weather and place a significant burden on the NHS and Adult Care.

In 2014, Derbyshire Public Health commissioned the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) to develop a programme to identify and support this vulnerable group of householders.

2.2 Who benefits

Eligible households include somebody living with one or more of the following diagnosed health conditions made worse by the cold: cardiovascular disease; respiratory failure; mobility issues; mental health problems and people with suppressed immune systems.

It can be difficult to ensure vulnerable householders are identified and given help. The programme works with GP practices to invite specific patients to contact the Healthy Home team for support and can also receive referrals from trusted partners who visit people in their homes such as Social Workers, Hospital Discharge teams, District Council Housing Officers, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and Citizen's Advice.

2.3 Services

All householders receive an average of three home visits to develop a tailored package of 1:1 support in three areas: making the home warm, making warmth affordable and improving health and wellbeing.

The programme started in April 2015 and to date has assisted 365 households with 950 different interventions involving over 1200 home visits.

2.4 Household savings

The following table outlines the financial benefits to residents since the programme started in April 2015.

Intervention	Households	Average savings per annum	Total £m per annum
Making the home warm: Reducing fuel costs by upgrading heating systems and controls	145	325	0.047
Bespoke energy saving advice	365	75	0.027
Making warmth affordable: Fuel switching, clearing fuel debts, pre-payment meter issues, benefit checks, managing fuel bills	365	350	0.128
TOTAL			0.202

These savings made by households helps reduce the gap between their existing and required spend on heating costs to keep their home at a safe and warm temperature. These savings come at no cost to households, because the LEAP has attracted capital funding worth over £0.300m from Government departments, charities, energy companies, energy distribution companies and other local authority specific awards.

2.5 Improving health and wellbeing

All householders receive advice about the health benefits of keeping warm, flu vaccination checks, medication checks, trips and falls services, priority service registers and housing option advice. In addition, a further 142 residents have received one to one energy and health advice during group meetings such as Breathe Easy meetings and Memory Cafes.

2.6 Savings to Adult Care and the NHS

Investment in housing-related interventions to keep the most vulnerable individuals warm and free from cold and damp is an effective use of resources. The King's Fund estimates that every £1 spent on improving homes saves the NHS £70 over 10 years.

No data on admissions is collected by the programme, so it is difficult to prove that the service has directly resulted in savings to the NHS and Adult Care due to avoided hospital admissions or residential care placements. However, 85% of clients receive Adult Care services and their ability to keep warm and well reduces pressure on social workers dealing with day to day care issues.

2.7 National recognition

The programme is one of a small number across the country to deliver health and housing preventative interventions to clients across all stages of their lives. The 2016 UK Fuel Poverty Strategy refers to the Derbyshire Healthy Home programme as an exemplar of a joined up warmth, health and wellbeing service.

3. Social Value considerations:

The programme supports the council's social aspirations by working in partnership to bring in scarce resources to develop an approach to prevent ill-health from living in cold damp housing.

The programme is highlighted in the Health and Housing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as an effective approach to deliver warmth, wealth and wellbeing solutions.

4. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Background papers:

None

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

8. Officer's Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities note the achievements of the Derbyshire Healthy Home programme.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health