

Energy Poverty Action

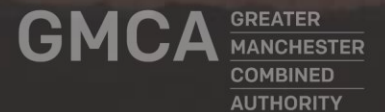
Greater Manchester Perspective

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STEP-IN has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 785125



Workshop outline



Introduction to fuel poverty

- What is fuel poverty?
- What are consequences of fuel poverty?
- Fuel poverty in Greater Manchester

Outreach activities in Greater Manchester

- Outreach services (LA-own and LEAP)
- Greater Manchester Warm Homes Fund Scheme
- Innovative delivery

Fuel Poverty – what is it?

Boardman-based metric (UK 2001 – 2013):

A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth [in accordance with WHO definition]

Indicators:

10% of total household income spent on energy costs

Fuel Poverty – what is it?

Cont'd

Definition in England (2013 – present):

...a person is to be regarded as living “in fuel poverty” if they are a member of a household living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost.

Indicators:

- The required fuel costs are above average (national median level)*
- The fuel costs bring the residual income below the official poverty line*

Fuel Poverty – what is it?

Contributing factors:

- Personal circumstances
- Income and debt
- Building's energy efficiency
- Energy efficiency of appliances
- Ability to operate equipment efficiently
- Behaviour and decision-making (e.g. selection of energy supplier)



Consequences of living in fuel poverty

- Living in cold homes can lead to and exacerbate mental and respiratory health issues (Institute of Health Equity, 2020)
- 9,700 excess winter deaths are attributable to living in a cold home (NEA, 2018)
- Dealing with health risk factors associated with living in fuel poverty is estimated to cost NHS £1.4bn (NEA, 2018)
- Investments in energy efficiency could save NHS as much as £750m annually (NAE, 2018)
- Can force employees to take days off work due to ill-health (IPPR, 2018)
- 'Heat or eat' dilemma – rationing energy and other necessities to avoid or deal with debt repayments



Consequences of living in fuel poverty cont'd

- 20% of parents in fuel poor households regularly go without food (Cooper et al., 2014)
- Children living in fuel poverty are 25% more likely to experience ill-health while growing up (Harker, 2006)
- Children in inadequately heated homes are twice as likely to suffer from conditions such as asthma and bronchitis (Institute of Health Equity, 2020)
- Has been linked to an array of developmental problems and poor school performance (NCB, nd)





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Fuel poverty rates

United Kingdom

The proportion of households in England in fuel poverty is estimated at **10.3 per cent** (approximately **2.40 million households**). Out of vulnerable households, **11.3 per cent** are considered to live in fuel poverty.

Greater Manchester

The fuel poverty rates for GM Local Authorities are estimated at **11.5 per cent** (with 9 out of 10 authorities above national average). This is below the North West average of **12.1 per cent**.



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Best practices for tackling fuel poverty - GM

Outreach services – including council-own service (x3) and Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) (x7)

- Offers free energy advice from qualified professionals to local households
- Targets fuel poor and vulnerable households to help them save energy and money while keeping their homes warm

Greater Manchester Warm Homes Fund Scheme (now succeeded by Connected for Warmth)

- Works with households qualifying for funding to cover the installation of first time central heating system
- Targets fuel poor and vulnerable households to help them heat their homes more efficiently and cheaply with modern central heating systems

Closer look – Outreach services (LA-own and LEAP)

Stakeholders involved:

- Energy companies
- Private companies
- Practitioners
- Local authorities
- City-region authority (GMCA)



Closer look – Outreach services (LA-own and LEAP) cont'd

Objectives:

- Support local residents to keep warm, live healthier and take control of their bills
- Improve building's energy efficiency in support of wider environmental goals
- Join up support services across these areas



Closer look – Outreach services (LA-own and LEAP) cont'd

Impact of 1278 LEAP visits across GM:

- £1.8 million in lifetime bill savings
- 10,600 small energy saving measures installed (LED lightbulbs and radiator reflector panels)
- Over 170 households accessed new benefits based on their entitlement
- Over 200 households referred for an emergency boiler replacement





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Closer look – Outreach services (LA-own and LEAP) cont'd

Lessons learnt

- Collaboration between public, private and third sector
- Outreach and engagement
- Scale and local provision
- Maintaining support and awareness



Closer look – GM Warm Homes Fund Scheme

Stakeholders involved

- Energy companies
- Private companies
- Local Authorities & GMCA
- Delivery bodies



Closer look – GM Warm Homes Fund Scheme cont'd

Objectives

- Support local residents to keep warm, live healthier and take control of their bills
- Improve building's energy efficiency in support of wider environmental goals
- Join up support services across these areas



Closer look – GM Warm Homes Fund Scheme cont'd

Impact (2018-2019 programme)

- £3.13 million in lifetime bill savings*
- 500 installations of first-time central heating (421 gas, 79 “low carbon” air source heat pumps)
- The average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of properties rose by two levels
- 101 homes were connected to the gas network for the first time





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Closer look – GM Warm Homes Fund Scheme cont'd

Lessons learnt

- Public procurement
- Advertising and promotion
- Collaboration between public, private and third sector
- Outreach and engagement
- Maintaining support and awareness





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Innovative delivery

Outreach services (LA-own and LEAP)

- Developing partnerships
- Integrating service with other offers
- Scale and local adaptability

GM Warm Homes Fund Scheme

- Developing partnerships
- Integrating service with other offers
- Awareness raising and advertising
- Low carbon heating installation



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ONLINE ENERGY ADVICE

Visit www.step-in-project.eu/online-energy-cafe-manchester/ to access free resources that will help you keep your home warmer for less. Our videos will show you how to use your heating system more efficiently, switch your energy supplier and what simple measures you can install to cut your energy costs!

CHAT WITH QUALIFIED ENERGY ADVISORS

You will be able to chat with our qualified **Energy Advisors** who will answer any questions you may have about using your energy more **efficiently** and **reduce your energy bills**. Our team will also help you with getting access to information about support in Greater Manchester that is available to households struggling with their energy bills. The **Live Chat** will be open on the following days:



8th October
11:00 am - 12:00 noon



12th October
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm



15th October
11:00 am - 12:00 noon

GMCA

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STEP-IN
Using Living Labs to Improve Energy
Efficiency and Comfortability



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Thank you!

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