



Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

Progress Report 2015-17 and

Further Report 2017-19

of

Bassetlaw District Council

and

**Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire
Local Authorities' Energy Partnership
(LAEP)**

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Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP)

The LAEP is a non-statutory partnership of all 20 councils across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, established in 1996 and continues to provide an excellent model of how councils can work together for mutual benefit.

This report covers collective activities across the following 15 LAEP district authorities:

Nottinghamshire

Ashfield District Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Broxtowe Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Mansfield District Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council

Derbyshire

Amber Valley Borough Council
Bolsover District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Erewash Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
South Derbyshire District Council

Partnership activities are delivered via a membership service and a communications service which are funded through separate subscriptions. Councils benefit from support, information and communication services and collaborate on carbon reduction, affordable warmth and sustainable energy projects, sharing expertise and best practice.

Each council is represented on the Officer Working Group (OWG) which runs the partnership and funds are held by Derbyshire County Council which is the LAEP Treasurer and Accountable Body.

This report is presented in two parts which together provide an update on trends, initiatives and activities since 2015, and plans for the future as LAEP councils work together and independently to reduce domestic carbon dioxide emissions and fuel poverty across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire:

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire LAEP HECA REPORT (Part 1)

- Baseline information
- Joint ambitions and achievements

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL HECA REPORT Annex (Part 2)

LAEP Chair's introduction

The production of Part 1 of this report by our partnership, is an example of how our long-standing collaboration has provided huge benefit and exceptional value to our local authority members over the years. In increasingly challenging times for local government, this report provides evidence of how our partnership is striving to maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits to our councils and residents through its work on home energy conservation and affordable warmth.

*Phil Keynes, Team Manager, Energy and Carbon Management
Nottinghamshire County Council*



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & DERBYSHIRE LAEP HECA REPORT

BASELINE INFORMATION

Levels of fuel poverty

Between 2012 and 2014 across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and the East Midlands as a whole, government statistics show that there was a fall in the number and percentage of households categorised as being in fuel poverty, as illustrated in the table below.

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

Although these figures do not cover the period of this report, they are the latest available and show a bigger fall than during the preceding period 2010-2012 reported in the LAEP HECA Report 2012-14.

	2012		2014		
	Fuel poor households	% Fuel poor households	Total households	Fuel Poor Households	% Fuel poor households
EAST MIDLANDS	256,017	13.2	1,941,704	196,859	10.1
Derbyshire	43,565	12.8	340,691	33,527	9.8
Amber Valley	7,078	13.2	53,853	5,426	10.1
Bolsover	4,153	12.4	33,571	3,310	9.9
Chesterfield	6,217	13.0	47,925	4,594	9.6
Derbyshire Dales	4,917	15.6	31,524	3,835	12.2
Erewash	6,287	12.6	49,883	4,704	9.4
High Peak	5,281	13.3	39,898	4,208	10.5
NE Derbyshire	5,239	11.9	44,134	3,836	8.7
South Derbyshire	4,393	11.0	39,903	3,614	9.1
Nottinghamshire	41,432	12.1	342,501	32,029	9.4
Ashfield	6,507	12.5	52,126	4,835	9.3
Bassetlaw	6,193	12.7	48,839	5,072	10.4
Broxtowe	5,736	12.0	47,984	4,388	9.1
Gedling	5,522	11.0	50,562	4,379	8.7
Mansfield	5,796	12.6	46,027	4,292	9.3
Newark & Sherwood	6,311	12.7	49,982	5,026	10.1
Rushcliffe	5,367	11.5	46,981	4,037	8.6

In 2012 government moved to a new measure of fuel poverty named 'Low Income High Costs'. Under this definition households are considered fuel poor if they have an income below the poverty line (including if meeting its required energy bill would push it into

poverty) and higher than typical energy costs; higher costs would be incurred by those in hard to heat homes or those whose health or occupancy needs required higher home temperatures or heating periods.

It is important to note that this new way of measuring fuel poverty led to a fall of around one third in the number of households being categorised as being in fuel poverty in LAEP district council areas, as illustrated in the LAEP HECA Report 2012-14.

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded measures

The ECO programme provides funding for energy efficiency measures for households in hard to treat properties and vulnerable or low income households who struggle to achieve affordable warmth.

The Energy Company Obligation Phase 2 (ECO2) ran from April 2015 to March 2017.

The most recent data available shows the cumulative total of ECO funded measures installed since the beginning of ECO to November 2016, compiled from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics-headline-release-january-2017>

ECO OBLIGATION measures						
	Carbon Saving Target (CSO/CERO)	Carbon Savings Community (CSCO)	Affordable Warmth (HHCRO)	Total no. ECO measures installed	All Households in area	ECO measures per 1,000 households*
ENGLAND	682,800	401,415	560,049	1,644,264	22,718,084	72.4
E MIDLANDS	55,923	29,016	50,385	135,324	1,943,621	69.6
Derbyshire	9,837	3,244	7,364	20,445	340,259	60.1
Amber Valley	1,406	412	1,236	3,054	53,746	56.8
Bolsover	613	699	1,201	2,513	33,493	75.0
Chesterfield	2,008	501	1,054	3,563	47,373	75.2
Derbyshire Dales	492	215	260	967	31,399	30.8
Erewash	1,398	399	1,272	3,069	49,907	61.5
High Peak	944	211	837	1,992	39,758	50.1
NE Derbyshire	1,763	741	836	3,340	43,759	76.3
South Derbyshire	1,213	66	668	1,947	40,824	47.7
Nottinghamshire	11,485	5,237	8,656	25,378	341,941	74.2
Ashfield	1,768	696	1,838	4,302	52,117	82.5
Bassetlaw	1,576	1,379	1,280	4,235	48,659	87.0
Broxtowe	1,158	136	1,082	2,376	48,044	49.5
Gedling	2,140	279	1,322	3,741	50,397	74.2
Mansfield	1,329	1,397	1,586	4,312	45,741	94.3
Newark & Sherwood	1,996	1,140	969	4,105	49,948	82.2
Rushcliffe	1,518	210	579	2,307	47,035	49.0

* More than one measure installed in some homes

JOINT LAEP ACTION

1. Priorities and ambitions

The LAEP acknowledges the requirements for local government to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation as outlined in the Climate Change Act 2008 and has a collective ambition to reduce domestic emissions of carbon dioxide and to help reduce fuel poverty across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

The LAEP supports the aims of the 2015 Fuel Poverty Strategy for England ‘Cutting the Cost of Keeping Warm’ and the statutory target published in 2012 to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030, with interim milestones of Band E by 2020 and Band D by 2025.

The LAEP also looks forward to engaging with the reformed ECO framework during the transition period to the longer term ECO3 (running from 2018 – 2022) as a key means of achieving affordable warmth locally.

Tackling fuel poverty and achieving affordable warmth has been the LAEP’s **key priority** for a number of years and is the main focus of its current work programme.

Affordable warmth is woven into most of the partnership’s activities with a particular emphasis on reducing the impacts of the cold on those with long term health conditions.

Through the development of health and housing programmes, local authorities in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire are taking a leadership role in assisting fuel poor residents with long term health conditions in new and innovative ways, working collaboratively with each other and with Public Health, the NHS and third sector partners to establish and expand the reach and impact of successful LAEP programmes and initiatives.

All local councils are committed to supporting the continued development of the Derbyshire Healthy Home Programme and the Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription Programme which now have an established track record of delivery.

More broadly the LAEP is committed to providing guidance and improving access to affordable warmth assistance and energy efficiency advice through its community and public engagement service and is exploring opportunities to engage with ECO providers in the new phase of ECO.

The LAEP intends to engage fully with the rollout of smart meters as a way of assisting all local residents to save money and energy in the future and particularly to ensure that the most vulnerable residents are as able as the general population to take advantage of the benefits which smart meters bring.

The LAEP’s programmes and objectives are detailed in a number of countywide policy documents which, together, illustrate the integrated and cross-cutting nature of the partnership’s activities:

- Derbyshire Housing and Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2016)
https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/IAS/Custom/Resources/HealthandWellbeing/Health_Needs_Assessments/DerbyshireHousingHealthJNA2016.pdf
- Derbyshire Anti-poverty strategy (2014-17)
http://www.derbyshirepartnership.gov.uk/images/Derbyshire%20Anti%20Poverty%20Strategy%20Final_tcm39-263319.pdf
- Derbyshire Climate Change Charter (2014-19)
https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/Climate%20Change%20Charter%20final_tcm44-252695.pdf

- Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
<http://jsna.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insight/Strategic-Framework/Nottinghamshire-JSNA.aspx>
- Nottinghamshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan
<http://www.stpnotts.org.uk/media/116404/sustainabilitytransformationplan2016-21.pdf>
- An assessment of the Impact of Housing on Health and Wellbeing in Nottinghamshire
<http://www.nottinghaminsight.org.uk/d/112956>
- Housing and Health Commissioning Group Housing Delivery Plan 2016

As a two tier, two county area comprising 15 district and borough councils, there are both significant organisational challenges to be overcome and operational benefits to be gained from collaborative working on this issue. The value of this joint approach is clearly demonstrated in subsequent sections of this report and in previous reports which document the track record of the partnership over the last 21 years of its operation.

2. Achievements 2015-17

2.1 Information, advice, education and promotion

The LAEP has commissioned the provision of a public facing communications service on behalf of its member authorities since 2010. This provides residents with information, advice and education on domestic energy efficiency, carbon emissions reduction and affordable warmth and is delivered by third sector partner Marches Energy Agency (MEA).

A website provides advice and guidance to residents and active low carbon community groups to encourage and support domestic energy efficiency and other low carbon behaviour change. One to one advice is available for community groups wanting to set up community energy schemes or undertake other low carbon initiatives.

A staffed, interactive, mobile information display vehicle visits three events in each council area per year, promoting home energy saving, energy efficiency retrofitting, potential sources of funding including ECO, and provides information and advice on associated topics including affordable warmth, water efficiency, Smart Meters, fuel tariff switching and the impact of a cold home on health.

The communication service provided by MEA and the LAEP's relationship with National Energy Action (detailed below) has also enabled access to health through affordable warmth training for frontline staff including social workers and health visitors.

2.2 Health and housing affordable warmth programmes

Since 2015 the LAEP and its member local authorities have made great strides in creating and establishing health and housing programmes in both counties which target comprehensive affordable warmth assistance at the most vulnerable residents. Those in fuel poverty with long term health conditions made worse by the cold are identified and provided with home heating improvements and assistance with their fuel costs. This enables them to be able to keep warm and well at home.

Over the last two years, over £0.5m of capital funding for domestic heating measures has been secured from external sources including National Grid, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (now BEIS) and National Energy Action (NEA) as well as from public sector budgets including Public Health and Better Care Fund. This has enabled essential works to be paid for in homes where residents had no means to pay for heating repairs, heating replacements or insulation measures.

Many of these households would have been unable to access ECO funding because they required the replacement of back boilers, whole heating systems or off gas solutions, none of which provide sufficient 'life time savings' for the investment that utility companies would need to make. In the worst cases this means vulnerable residents with no means of paying for the works themselves being without any heating or hot water for an indefinite period. In other situations residents are unable to access ECO because they are not on qualifying benefits; this is often the case for those of working age.

Nottinghamshire Warm Homes programme (ongoing from 2016)

The Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription programme aims to help low income households with cold-sensitive long-term health conditions to achieve affordable warmth.

The programme targets residents who satisfy the following criteria:

- Have long-term health conditions made worse by the cold
- Are in fuel poverty (defined as having a gross household income of no more than £16,010 per annum excl. PIP/DLA or <£800/month after mortgage/rent)
- Have savings of less than £16K
- Own their own home or privately rent their home

The programme offers a bespoke service consisting of a home visit to primarily identify the need for a heating upgrade, an income maximisation assessment and/or support with energy tariff switching. In addition to these core elements, the project utilises existing local pathways to offer debt advice, temporary heating, home safety checks, falls advice, support with accessing Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) and Housing Options advice.

The pilot year (2016-17) has offered approximately 100 interventions to 40 residents who are suffering with long term health conditions that are made worse by living in cold home. The home visits have been undertaken 'in house' by local authority representatives and whilst it was recognised early on in the programme that this pilot delivery model was unsustainable to some authorities, the learning has proved invaluable and as a result all Nottinghamshire authorities are looking to incorporate the Warm Homes on Prescription programme as a 'business as usual' activity through their future Better Care Funding (BCF) allocations for 2017-2019.

Utilising the capital funding available through the BCF has only proved viable due to Public Health providing revenue funding to support the Warm Homes on Prescription programme for 2017-18. This funding will be used to cover the costs required to deliver home visits, as required, and the coordination and management of the programme.

The programme has been successful in creating new referral pathways with NHS frontline staff, Environmental Health Officers and local charities; however, engaging GP's has proved to be challenging. As well as creating new pathways, the Project has

been successful in building on the existing services delivered by Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), the Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) and the AGE UK Connect Service.

The programme is governed by a Project Board and looking forward, the programme has been included in the Nottinghamshire Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP), enabling expansion into Nottingham City and delivery of targets set out in the Housing Chapter of the Nottinghamshire JSNA.

Case Study – Mrs B, Newark and Sherwood District Council

Mrs B has COPD and Atrial Fibrillation and as a result of these health conditions she spends a minimum of 15 hours per day on an oxygen machine; being dependant on oxygen makes Mrs B virtually housebound. Mrs B has limited savings and receives the State Pension, a small private pension and is in receipt of Pension Credit; being on low income makes it impossible for Mrs B to adequately heat her home in cold weather and as a result of Mrs B's long-term health conditions, she feels the cold.

At the time of the home visit Mrs B's heating was not working which led to the Home Energy Advisor making an immediate referral to the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) to request that they deliver and set-up 2 oil-filled electric radiators as a temporary heating measure. Whilst NFRS were delivering the heaters they undertook a 'Home Safety Check' which resulted in the installation of new smoke detectors.

Through the Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription programme a full central heating system has been installed which consisted of a new 'A' rated combination boiler, new double panel high heat output radiators, a programmer, a room thermostat, thermostatic radiator valves (TRV's), all connections and pipework; the team also arranged the 1st year annual service to give Mrs B piece of mind that she would have no unexpected maintenance bills during the 2 year warranty period. As Mrs B lives alone general advice was given regarding falls prevention and a Lifeline was installed, just in case she falls and needs assistance. A grab rail was also fitted outside the back door to enable her safer access to her garden.

Mrs B was also referred to DWP for a benefits check; they visited her at home and have significantly increased her income via the Assisted Living Allowance which has enabled carers to visit twice per week to help her to live more independently.

As a result of the Nottinghamshire Warm Homes interventions Mrs B says she is looking forward to being warmer and more comfortable in her home during the winter and is very grateful to the programme for all the support she has received.

2.3 Housing intelligence

The LAEP has developed a Housing and Energy Database (HED) containing EPC records, purchased by the partnership, and other housing data, to enable district and borough authorities to identify and target housing archetypes for investment/signposting to ECO, fuel poverty initiatives and government funded schemes.

3. Looking ahead 2017-19

3.1 Delivering warm and healthy housing programmes for the most vulnerable

District and Borough councils in both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire plan to develop and expand their innovative health and affordable warmth programmes over the next two years.

LAEP councils will continue to work together to develop countywide alliances with Public Health, CCGs and third sector partners to link into wider strategic priorities and funding streams including ECO, Better Care Fund (BCF) and Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), to ensure that the programmes are sustainable.

Using experience and expertise gained to date, targeting and delivery of programmes will be continuously improved. This will ensure that limited resources are used to achieve affordable warmth for those most at risk of harm from the cold, estimated to be around 3,000 households in each county, and will aim to impact on unplanned hospital admissions and avoid costs to the NHS and social care.

The Nottinghamshire Warm Homes Programme plans to expand its pilot programme during 2017-19 to reach 250 eligible households in year 2017-18 and 300 in year 2018-19 as detailed in the Nottinghamshire STP.

3.2 Tackling fuel poverty

The LAEP will engage with the new affordable warmth focus of ECO to help improve access to grant funding for those in fuel poverty across the two counties, estimated by BEIS to be around 65,000 households. The LAEP's Home Energy Database (HED) will assist councils to bring ECO funding for solid wall insulation into their areas by helping to locate areas of suitable housing type(s).

Comprehensive signposting and guidance about how to achieve affordable warmth, including how to access ECO funding, will continue to be provided through the LAEP website and its innovative community engagement service and through engagement with partner organisations.

LAEP will monitor the effectiveness of ECO to assist those in fuel poverty through the partnership's joint projects and will provide feedback on this to BEIS.

3.3 Increasing domestic energy efficiency throughout the population

Since ECO funding has been refocused to assist those in fuel poverty, 'able to pay' households will not have access to any public funding to assist or subsidise energy efficiency improvements in their homes.

The LAEP will redouble its efforts to provide incentives for individual action by promoting the cost savings and comfort improvements that can be achieved by financial investment and behaviour change, using its community engagement service, currently delivered by third sector partner Marches Energy Agency (MEA). This will include website signposting and public exhibitions (mentioned in item 2. above), co-ordination of Open ECO Homes events across the two counties and the promotion of the benefits of smart meters, as highlighted below.

3.4 Rolling out smart meters

The LAEP is committed to playing a proactive part in the rollout of smart meters and is working with National Energy Action (NEA) through the Smart Energy GB initiative, to raise awareness and help councils to provide a lead. Councils see themselves as partners in the rollout of smart meters to assist residents to reduce domestic energy consumption and tackle fuel poverty.

Opportunities will be sought to ensure that the most vulnerable residents are as able as the general population to take advantage of the benefits which smart meters bring.

For further information about the contents of this LAEP HECA report, please contact:
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