



# **Home Energy Conservation Act 1995**

**Progress Report 2015-17 and**

**Further Report 2017-19**

**of**

**Derbyshire Dales 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

### **DERBYSHIRE DALES 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
<b>Derbyshire</b>	<b>43,565</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>340,691</b>	<b>33,527</b>	<b>9.8</b>
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
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>41,432</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>342,501</b>	<b>32,029</b>	<b>9.4</b>
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*
<b>ENGLAND</b>	682,800	401,415	560,049	1,644,264	22,718,084	72.4
<b>E MIDLANDS</b>	55,923	29,016	50,385	135,324	1,943,621	69.6
<b>Derbyshire</b>	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
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	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](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](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](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.

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 Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, targeting comprehensive affordable warmth assistance at the most vulnerable. 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 afford 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) through competitive tendering for grants; funding has also been granted 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 the householders assisted would have been unable to access ECO funding as 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 leaves vulnerable residents with no means of paying for the works 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, often the case for those of working age.

## Derbyshire Healthy Home Programme (ongoing from 2014)



### a) Context

In 2014, Public Health commissioned the LAEP to develop a programme to identify and support very low income householders in Derbyshire, suffering from long term illnesses made worse by the cold to:

- Reduce the detrimental health and wellbeing effects of cold and damp homes on those individuals with long term, cold-sensitive health conditions
- Reduce associated costs and pressures on the NHS and Adult Care services.

The Healthy Home Programme is run by a Programme Manager and a team of four Project Officers funded by Public Health. The service operates at a population level across the whole of Derbyshire but excludes social housing tenants.

The programme is highlighted in the Derbyshire **Health and Housing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** as an effective approach to delivering a bespoke package of warmth, wealth and wellbeing interventions to clients across all stages of life. The **2016 UK Fuel Poverty Strategy** refers to the Derbyshire Healthy Home Programme as an exemplar of local authority ambition to join up warmth, health and wellbeing services.

### b) Service delivery and partnership

The programme is offered as a prevention service to GP practices across Derbyshire and also accepts eligible referrals from trusted sources including Adult Care, district councils, Citizen's Advice, the Fire Service and the Home Improvement Service where these organisations are unable to assist.



An in-home affordable warmth assessment determines housing, heating, financial and wellbeing needs, the risks faced in terms of the cold, trips and falls, and the root causes of their fuel poverty. A bespoke affordable warmth and wellbeing intervention plan is developed for the householder providing the following

combination of services where relevant:

- **Warmth Solutions** - ensuring adequate warmth in the home by providing new heating systems, system repairs, boilers, heating controls, insulation and draught proofing.
- **Fuel Cost Management** - in-home fuel tariff switching, negotiating with energy provider on resident's behalf, fuel debt relief, metering issues, bill

payment methods, fuel discounts, Priority Service Registers, Warm Home Discount, Winter Fuel Payment and benefits applications.

- **High Dependency Support** - intensive process, requiring multiple home visits, working closely with statutory and third sector agencies to deliver essential interventions. One-to-one support is provided to resolve long standing, complex problems involving housing options, disrepair, unwilling or absent landlords, condemned/disconnected heating systems, debt, isolation, chaotic lifestyles, hoarding etc.

#### c) Outcomes 2015-17

- 360 vulnerable households provided with multiple interventions (see above)
- 252 homes have received free energy efficiency improvements through the programme including new central heating systems, replacement boilers, insulation and heating controls
- £470,000 of capital funding secured by the LAEP to provide these measures at no cost to these households who are unable to pay for the improvements themselves.

**Bill Purvis will provide each council with end of year figures, a case study and a summary of work carried out in your area, by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April.**

**This information can then be included in your council's individual HECA report.**

#### d) Evaluation

Self-reported patient feedback following affordable warmth interventions demonstrate the programme's effectiveness:

- 57% of clients said their health condition had "*improved significantly*"
- 83% said they are now comfortably able to keep their home warm.

The programme is being independently evaluated by Newcastle University, Sheffield Hallam University and the Department of Energy and Climate Change as part of the LAEP's commitments to their capital funding grant providers.

### 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 Derbyshire Healthy Home Programme plans to assist 300 eligible households per year in 2017-19 as detailed in the Public Health Service Specification and Service Level Agreement, providing bespoke and comprehensive affordable warmth assistance.

### **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.

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