

Hyndburn Borough Council

Statement of Intent for ECO Flexible Eligibility

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Introduction

Hyndburn Borough Council is committed to improving the energy efficiency of homes within the Borough. This includes addressing health inequalities exacerbated by living in cold and damp homes, reducing fuel poverty, tackling seasonal excess deaths and reducing carbon emissions from domestic households.

This Statement of Intent has been developed with the intention of supporting Hyndburn Borough Council to participate in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Flexible Eligibility. It sets out the criteria Hyndburn Borough Council will use in making declarations under Flexible Eligibility and the delivery arrangements in place, in line with the [guidance](#) to local authorities issued by the Department for Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on Flexible Eligibility.

The Council anticipates that Flexible Eligibility will bring energy efficiency measures to residents and households in the Borough that have traditionally not qualified for help in the past because they were not on an appropriate benefit. When the local authority makes a declaration on behalf of a resident it is not a guarantee that a measure will be installed. The final decision will rest with the energy suppliers or their agents / contractors who will take into account a number of factors including the savings that can be achieved by the resident as well as whether they have already reached their target. Where properties are rented from private sector landlords the property must have a current EPC rating of E or above in order to potentially qualify for a wider range of ECO measures.

Hyndburn Borough Council is committed to addressing issues of fuel poverty and energy efficiency. In 2016 (latest figures available) 5,008 Hyndburn households were living in fuel poverty representing 14.1% of households. This is higher than the average for all 14 Lancashire Authorities at 12.9% and is above the England average of 11.1%.

An interactive map of fuel poverty in Lancashire is available here: -

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/deprivation/fuel-poverty/>

Home Energy Conservation Act Report (HECA)

The priorities for Hyndburn in tackling fuel poverty are identified in the latest Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report published in March 2017.

<https://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/energy-efficiency-2/>

Flexible Eligibility is a means for the local authority to make an application for a range of energy efficiency measures for qualifying residents through a declaration to an energy company on behalf of the resident.

How Hyndburn intends to identify eligible households

Households that may benefit from flexible eligibility must meet one or more of the following:-

A) Criteria for identifying households living in fuel poverty

The [CSE fuel poverty](#) calculator will be used to identify households living with a low income and high fuel costs and, therefore deemed to be fuel poor. Agreed minimum thresholds for fuel costs in line with current heating methods of the household will be applied.

Or

Households located in the most deprived 25% Lower Super Output Areas in Hyndburn and with savings of less than £16,000.

Anyone with savings over £16,000 will **not** qualify for help

B) Criteria for identifying households living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home

Households will be eligible for funding if they meet at least one of the following vulnerabilities and have savings of less than £16,000.

Vulnerabilities:

- people with a diagnosed cardiovascular conditions
- people with a diagnosed respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with diagnosed mental health conditions
- people with diagnosed disabilities
- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (from new born to school age)
- pregnant women
- people who are terminally ill
- people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)
- people who have mobility issues and have attended hospital due to a fall

The following vulnerable groups will be considered on referral from a professional organisation:-

- people who move in and out of homelessness
- people with addictions (alcohol, drugs etc)
- Recent immigrants and refugees.

C) Criteria for identifying “in-fill” properties for solid wall insulation

To increase economies of scale of solid wall insulation projects, solid wall homes which do not meet the criteria for fuel poverty (outlined at A) or living on a low income and vulnerable to the cold (outlined at B), the local authority can declare a household as “in-fill” where they are co-located with a minimum percentage of households assessed to be fuel poor.

Proposals for area-based schemes will be considered in line with the requirements for property types set out in the BIES guidance for Local Authorities.

Governance

Before any measures can be installed a nominated officer from Hyndburn BC will need to sign the LA Declaration Form. This Declaration demonstrates that the Council has been consulted on the installation of the measure at the domestic premises and considers that the household meets the eligibility criteria for the measure.

The nominated officer from Hyndburn Borough Council (Housing Strategy and Policy Manager) will be responsible for signing the declarations (see Appendix 1).

Referrals

All Hyndburn BC referrals will be coordinated through the appointed delivery agent for CHiL (Cosy Homes in Lancashire) who will administer and process the Hyndburn applications including checking eligibility. Householders can make a direct approach to the delivery agent. Hyndburn BC can also take a referral directly or via an agent and pass this onto the delivery agent who will administer and process the referral.

CHiL (Cosy Homes in Lancashire) is a brand established by the 12 district and 2 unitary council’s in Lancashire and the County Council under which domestic energy efficiency schemes are delivered across Lancashire.

Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting

- Data will be collated by the delivery agent and reported to Hyndburn Borough Council on a regular basis
- Information required confirming eligibility is set out on the ECO-Flex funding self-declaration application form (see Appendix 1). Evidence may be sought on request.
- Every applicant will be required to sign a declaration stating that the information they have supplied is truthful and accurate. Evidence may be requested.

- The delivery agent will hold paper and electronic copies of all documents relating to each application including any evidence supplied by the applicant.
- All applications will be recorded on a secure CRM system by the delivery agent in line with data protection rules.

Signatures

Hyndburn Borough Council

Name:- Fiona Goodfellow, Housing Strategy & Policy Manager

Signature:-

Name:- Mark Hoyle, Head of Regeneration and Housing

Signature:-

DRAFT

FLEX Funding Application

Customer Name:

Address of property:

Please provide the information below and return this form in the envelope provided.

Number of people living at the property:

- Under 5
- Over 65

What is your average monthly household income?

What are your monthly Mortgage or Rent Payments (if applicable)?

What is your monthly Gas Bill?

What is your monthly Electricity Bill?

Do you pay any other Fuel bills?

Winter Fuel Payment (if applicable)?

Annual Council Tax Bill?

Do you have more than £16,000 in savings?

Does anyone living at the property have any long-term health conditions? (Please list all conditions)

I declare that the information I have given is correct and complete and accept that I may be asked to provide evidence of any or all information provided. I fully understand that if false information is given this may result in my application being cancelled or court proceedings possibly being taken to recover any funding allocation.

Signed..... Date