

# Energy Company Obligation (ECO): Help to Heat

## Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council January 2019 Version 3

### 1) Introduction

The countywide Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme supports local households in or near fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold to receive energy efficiency interventions that improve health and wellbeing outcomes and the fuel efficiency of their homes. The scheme will be used to deliver Local Authority Flexibility. Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and all of the other district and borough Councils in Hertfordshire to provide the scheme.

As set out in the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) (Amendment) Order 2017 (Art 16 (A)) this Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and the forthcoming Order 2018: Help to Heat Local Authority Flexible Eligibility ('ECO Flex') criteria is only applicable and relevant to private tenure households (i.e Private rented sector and owner occupier sector). Social housing is excluded from flexible eligibility.

The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme contributes towards the following Local Authority priorities:

#### Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

This will contribute to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council corporate plan (2018 – 2019) priorities:

- Maintain a safe and healthy community
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Engage with our communities and provide value for money
- It will help support our duties under the Home Energy Conservation Act to use the Council's position to significantly improve the energy efficiency of all the residential accommodation in our area.

#### Hertfordshire County Council

This will contribute to the Hertfordshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19 as well as the following Hertfordshire County Council's Corporate Plan priorities:

- Opportunity to Thrive: *A cleaner, greener county with children and adults given the support they need*
- Opportunity to be Healthy & Safe: *Healthier lifestyles, tailored social care and less crime*

It will contribute towards the following Public Health Strategy 2017 -21 priorities:

- Starting and developing well, *healthier lives for 0-25 years*
- Keeping Well, *supporting longer lives, more disease-free years and self-*

*management of long-term conditions*

- Working to reduce health inequalities: *Reducing inequalities in health outcomes and life expectancy between most and least affluent*

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council wishes to utilise ECO Flex to its fullest to help Hertfordshire Warmer Homes achieve its aims and reach a wide number of residents.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on:

- identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat;
- the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation; and
- Whether the supplier has achieved their targets or requires further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

## 2) How the Local Authority intends to identify eligible households

We intend to identify eligible households through the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme by ANY one of the 3 criteria in Table 1.

### ***Criteria for identifying households on low income, in fuel poverty, and vulnerable to cold***

**Table 1:**

<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1.Low Income	Household disposable income (after rent or mortgage has been paid) £20,000 or less
2.High energy costs and either  a) health condition made worse by the cold or b) vulnerable to the cold	Property with at least one of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100mm or less loft insulation</li> <li>• Unfilled cavity walls</li> <li>• No working central heating</li> </ul> or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPC rating of D or below</li> </ul> AND resident or household member either:  a) health condition made worse by the cold as defined in table 2 below or b) vulnerable to the cold as defined by table 2 below
3.A home owner or those on a private tenancy agreement (or member of the household ) is in receipt of long term health or disability benefit	The following eligible benefits:  Carer's Allowance

	A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance, Disabled Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment)
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**Table 2 aligned with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance 2015 on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes**

a) Health conditions made worse by the cold	b) Vulnerable to the cold
i. people with cardiovascular conditions	i. Aged over 65, particularly those over 75
ii. people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)	ii. Children under 5 and pregnant women
iii. people with mental health conditions	iii. People with substance addictions
iv. people with disabilities	iv. People who have attended hospital due to a fall in the last year
v. people who are terminally ill	v. People diagnosed with dementia
vi. people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)	vi. Recent immigrants and asylum seekers
vii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)	
viii. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)	

## 5) Governance

The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes Assessor, provided by Hertfordshire County Council, will receive, log and follow-up initial referrals via HertsHelp. The Assessor will check if the client is potentially eligible for ECO Flex and request relevant supporting information. Once provided the Assessor will liaise with the relevant Local Authority to obtain a signed 'Local Authority Declaration' confirming eligibility.

*Responsible officer: Jeanette Hollingsworth Biggs*

The officer below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Job title: Environmental Health Practitioner Team Leader

Telephone: 01707 357264

Email: J.Hollingsworth@welhat.gov.uk

## 6) Referrals

We would expect referrals to be identified through the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme. Those outside of this would be expected to meet Hertfordshire Warmer Homes agreed quality criteria and should contact the responsible officer for further information.

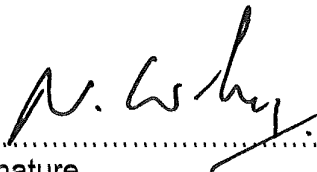
**7) Evidence, monitoring and reporting**

Hertfordshire Warmer Homes will provide the central administration and management of Energy Company Obligation flexible eligibility in Hertfordshire. The scheme reports on ECO Flex activity including SOI qualifying reason, household information and installation progress. The scheme is able report this activity on a monthly basis and is reviewed at the monthly Project Group by representatives from all partners.

**8) Signature**

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF  
WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

by



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Signature

Nick Long

.....  
Name

Executive Director  
Public Protection, Planning & Governance

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Title

Title