

Ashfield D.C ECO 3 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent



Introduction

Ashfield District Council's Corporate Plan sets out how the Council proposes to:

- Serve the communities and residents of Ashfield.
- Provide good quality, value for money services.
- Act strategically and plan for the future, working with others to bring about sustainable improvements in people's lives.

It also sets out the Council's priorities until 2019 in terms of People,

The Council intends to use the Eco Flexible Eligibility scheme to help reduce fuel poverty within the District and improve housing conditions for low income households that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home. This will contribute to the achievement of these priorities.

It is important to note that inclusion in a declaration made by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on a number of factors including:

- i) A survey carried out by supplier's agents/contractors and the installation costs calculated
- ii) The energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and
- iii) Whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets.

How the Council intends to identify eligible households

The purpose of flexible eligibility is to identify private households that may be living in fuel poverty but who are not able to access support through the main ECO scheme. The Council will target households that are:

- i) Fuel poor households as determined in line with the 'Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator; and
- ii) Low income households that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC)

To be eligible, households must meet the following requirements:

- Be classed as a low income household (as specified in Table 1 below)

AND either:

- Meet the requirements of high energy costs

OR

- Have at least one person resident in the property who suffers from a specified condition that increases vulnerability to cold (as specified in Table 2)

Low income households can be identified as those who fall below the income thresholds specified in Table 1 below. Income is defined as a household's net income after they have paid for their rent or mortgage and net council tax payments.

Table 1

Table 1 – income thresholds broadly consistent with those used under the Low Income High Costs indicator (2014) increased in line with inflation (BEIS).

Household composition	Annual household income
1 adult (18 years and over)	< £18,769
and 1 child	< £24,623
and 2 children	< £30,613
and three children	< £36,602
and four or more children	< £42,592
2 adults (18 years and over)	< £28,344
and 1 child	< £33,940
and 2 children	< £39,930
and three children	< £45,919
and four or more children	< £51,909

The criteria relating to high energy costs and conditions that increase vulnerability to cold are summarised in the table below.

Table 2

Criteria	<u>Eligibility</u>
High energy costs	Home with an EPC rating of D, E, F or G OR The property is hard to heat due to at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having solid walls • Off the mains gas network • No existing central heating • Being a park home or of non-standard construction
Specified conditions that increase vulnerability to cold	a) Atrial fibrillation; heart flutter (AF) b) Angina/Coronary heart disease (CHD) c) Heart failure d) High blood pressure (hypertension) e) Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) – swollen arteries in legs

	f) A transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or 'mini stroke' g) Asthma h) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) i) Rheumatoid arthritis j) Osteoporosis/brittle bones k) Diabetes l) Cancer m) Mental health conditions n) Terminally ill o) Suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)
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Acting on behalf of another local authority

The Council is not acting on behalf of another Local Authority.

Joint Statement of intent

This is not a joint statement of intent with another Local Authority.

Governance

The Declaration of households meeting the Council's flexibility eligibility criteria under this SOI will be signed off on behalf of Ashfield District Council by a LA Officer from the Disabled Facilities Grants team. Before any declaration can be signed off, the contractor must self-certify that they are accredited to the standards required by Ofgem to undertake ECO-funded energy efficiency improvement works.

Validity

This SOI will be valid until either it is superseded, or withdrawn.

Evidence, monitoring and reporting

The Eligible Individual will need to evidence to the Local Authority:

- Proof of income, this information can be sourced from 'proof of benefit' letters, award notices, annual review award notices, or provisional award notices. These should be on official letterhead depending on the type of benefit from HMRC, DWP/Jobcentre Plus, HM Government or the Pension Service.
- Bank Statements showing official letterhead of a recognised bank operating in the UK will suffice as proof of household income for those qualifying on an income only basis. Bank statements should provide evidence of name and address of the Eligible Individual (their partner, parent or guardian where the Eligible Individual doesn't hold a bank account – i.e. the Eligible Individual is a child, incapacitated or has given power of attorney to a nominated individual(s) for their financial affairs.
- Evidence that the Eligible Individual lives in the property.
- Evidence of health conditions affected by the cold for LVC applicants.

Reporting

An annual report will be submitted to BEIS. Information will be collated and recorded as follows:

- Number of households included on declarations (breakdown by LIHC & LVC)
- Number of households who received flexible eligibility measures (breakdown by LIHC & LVC)
- Eligibility criteria applied
- Suppliers and installers who the Council has worked with.

Monitoring

The Service Manager – Strategic Housing & Lettings, will select 5% of declarations over a 12 month period as a sample for checking:

- The accuracy and completeness of the records;
- Identify any risks to, or shortcomings in, the delivery of the project, and recommend any remedial steps deemed necessary or desirable.

Signature

The SOI should be signed by the Chief Executive Officer for the LA or other senior officer nominated on their behalf who is at least at Director level.

In case of a joint SOI, signatures by all the LAs involved should be included.

Signature..........

Name.....Mr P Parkinson.....

Title.....Director of Housing & Assets.....

Date.....31st Dec 2019.....

Contact details

For general queries and referrals to the scheme please contact housinggrants@ashfield.gov.uk or call 01623 457036.