

STOCKTON - ON - TEES

AFFORDABLE

WARMTH

STRATEGY

Housing Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership

January 2017

Contents

Contents

Section	Page
Foreword	2
2. Fuel Poverty and affordable warmth	3
2.1 What is fuel poverty?	3
2.2 What causes fuel poverty?	4
2.3 Energy types and prices	5
2.4 Who is at risk?	6
3. Fuel poverty in Stockton-on-Tees	8
3.1 National and regional picture	8
3.2 Stockton-on-Tees levels	9
3.3 Ward and LSOA level fuel poverty	9
4. Delivering action in Stockton-on Tees	12
4.1 Contributing to wider health strategy	12
4.2 Delivering action	12
5. Our objectives and indicators	15
5.1 Objectives	15
5.2 Indicators	15
6. Action Plan	16
Abbreviations	21
Local Partners	
Contact	
Web link	

Foreword



Stewart Tagg

Chair of the Housing,
Neighbourhood and
Affordable Warmth
Partnership

*“Support access to good
quality, affordable housing,
located within pleasant, safe
and sustainable
neighbourhoods where
affordable warmth is
increasingly available to all”.*

Cllr Jim Beall

Cabinet Member
for Adult Services
and Health



On 1st September, 2016 the former Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership and Fuel Poverty Partnership merged to create the Housing, Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership. This revised working arrangement is a positive step forward in delivering our shared ambition.

The aims and aspirations of the two partnerships prior to alignment always had a great deal in common. In these unprecedented times of pressure on resources the revised working arrangement is a natural progression ensuring that the partner’s collective efforts to tackle fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth are as effective and practical as possible.

Fuel poverty is a persistent problem that affects many of our residents. The Governments annual fuel poverty estimates of our local authority areas is however encouraging with levels in Stockton-on-Tees reducing from 11.1% in 2013 to 10.7% in 2014. The inability to keep warm at home is more than just a comfort issue; it has real impacts on peoples’ health and well-being and on community spirit. Additionally, trying to adequately heat an energy-inefficient home results in considerable unnecessary emissions and can drain a family of money.



£6.2 million

**Energy cost savings to Stockton-on-Tees households
from external wall insulation since 2012
(Newcastle University Eco Evaluation 2016)**

Promoting affordable warmth and tackling fuel poverty is an issue that remains at the top of our agenda in Stockton-on-Tees. Since 2001 the Council and its partners have delivered thousands of household improvement measures to support people of all ages and reduce the burden of rising energy costs and cold and inefficient homes. We are seeing some progress in reducing fuel poverty levels but with 8585 households still facing this challenge, we have much to do. We are particularly aware that there are significant inequalities in fuel poverty levels between wards and Lower Super Output Areas across the Borough.

The strategy presented here is our refreshed plan prioritising key issues where the Housing Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership can make an impact. It is intended as a working document with a flexible approach, one that is able to respond to changes in local and national circumstances.

A great deal has already been achieved within Stockton-on-Tees to tackle fuel poverty and to promote affordable warmth, we are confident that this strategy and action plan will make significant contribution towards this agenda, and help make a warm home increasingly available to all our residents.

2. Fuel poverty and affordable warmth

2. Fuel poverty and affordable warmth

2.1 What is fuel poverty?

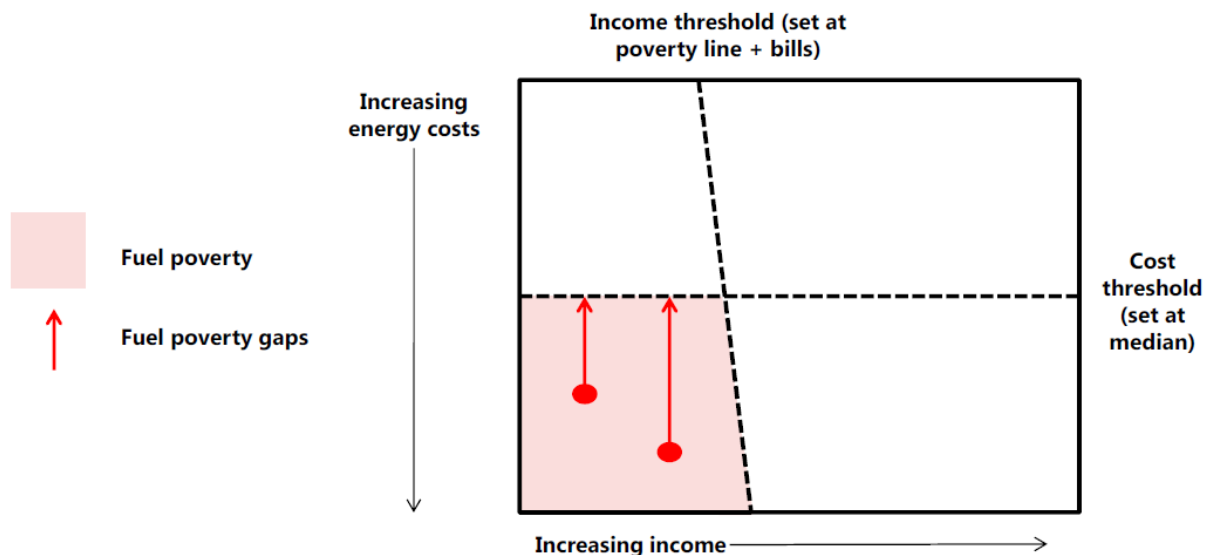
Fuel poverty affects the most vulnerable residents in our communities and can have significant adverse impacts on an individual's or family's health and well-being. Increasing fuel prices have combined with a range of factors led to increasing levels of fuel poverty levels in the UK, nationally 2.38 million households are in fuel poverty in 2014 compared to 1 million households in 2004. Fuel bills had begun to fall modestly in 2015 after several years of significant increases however very recent trends see the price of utilities beginning to increase again. We acknowledge that residents of Stockton Borough continue to be at risk of fuel poverty whilst the causes are addressed.

Changes to the way fuel poverty is assessed were introduced in 2015 with the publication of the Department for Energy and Climate Change's 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm – a fuel poverty strategy for England' (March 2015):

The 2015 strategy introduced the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) definition of a household as being fuel poor where:

- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)
- Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line

Figure 1 - The low income high costs definition¹



¹ Department for Energy and Climate Change – 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm – a fuel poverty strategy for England' (March 2015)

2.2 What causes fuel poverty?

There a number of contributing factors in the causes of fuel poverty, which can include the following:

Low Household Income – Those on low incomes, or who suffer unexpected reductions in income, often choose to prioritise spend on other essentials above purchasing fuel, such as food, and essentially do not have enough money to keep warm

Homes with poor energy efficiency – The energy efficiency of a property is measured by the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating on a scale of 1 to 100 e.g. the higher the number the more efficient the house. Many households suffering from fuel poverty are likely to be living in properties with low SAP ratings

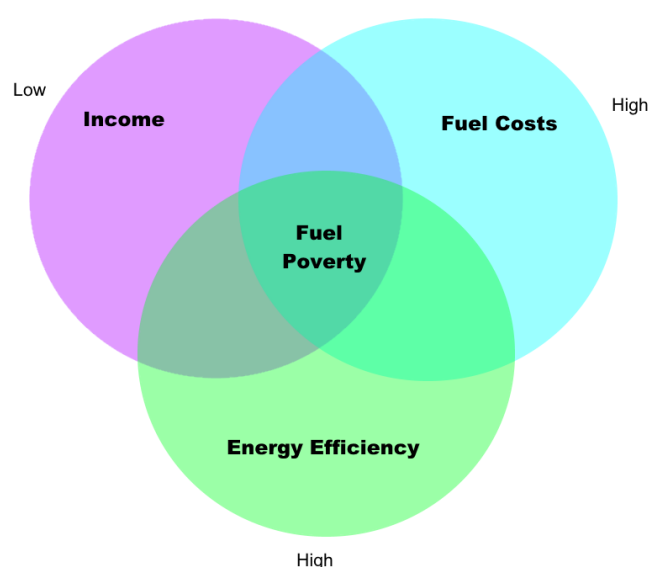
Under Occupancy – When the home is unnecessarily large for the number of occupants it can be difficult for the household to afford to heat the home, this can often occur with older residents who unexpectedly find themselves alone

The Price of Fuel - Domestic energy prices did fall modestly in 2015, however the prices had been rising at above inflation rates consistently since 2004. Figures published by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy ((BEAIS (formerly the Department of Energy & Climate Change)) in March 2016 states that in 2015 the average electricity bill across all payment types fell by £8.00 to £584 compared to 2014 costs whilst the average gas bill fell by £38 to £714 when compared to 2014. The 2015 reductions must be considered in the context of the significant increases in previous years as illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.

Fuel poverty is therefore usually a result of any of these interacting factors and can be illustrated in the diagram here.

The energy efficiency of properties is mostly influenced by the type of construction, with older and non-traditional methods such as solid walls harder to heat, and harder to treat. Partnership working in Stockton-on-Tees has delivered large scale, area wide external wall insulation measures funded by the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). In total CESP and ECO have delivered 4,999 specific improvements to homes in Stockton including new central heating boilers, loft, wall and cavity insulation and 3168 external wall insulations.

Stockton-on-Tees however still contains a significant stock of housing with solid walls or of non-traditional construction that could benefit from additional insulation measures to improve their thermal properties. At the time of writing the outcome of the Government's review of ECO funding and obligations on energy suppliers to fund measures is keenly anticipated.



2.3 Energy types and prices

Standard Electricity

Government figures published in March 2016 state that average standard bills for electricity in the UK increased steadily from 2002 at a cost of £280 for an average household across all payment types to £592 in 2014, an increase of 111% in 13 years, as Figure 1 shows. In 2015 the average electricity bill across all payment types fell by £8 compared to 2014 to £584. Direct debit is the cheapest method of payment for electricity, with the average standard direct debit bill £56 cheaper than the average credit bill in 2015.

£584
Average Electricity Bill in 2014
Domestic Energy Price Statistics
(DECC 2016)

Figure 1 – Gas and Electricity bills²³

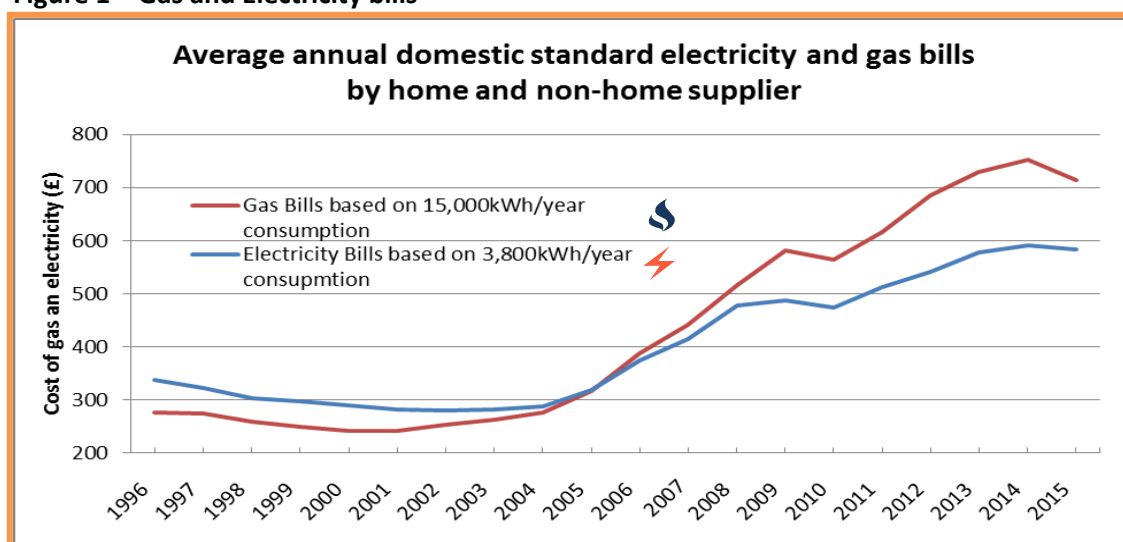
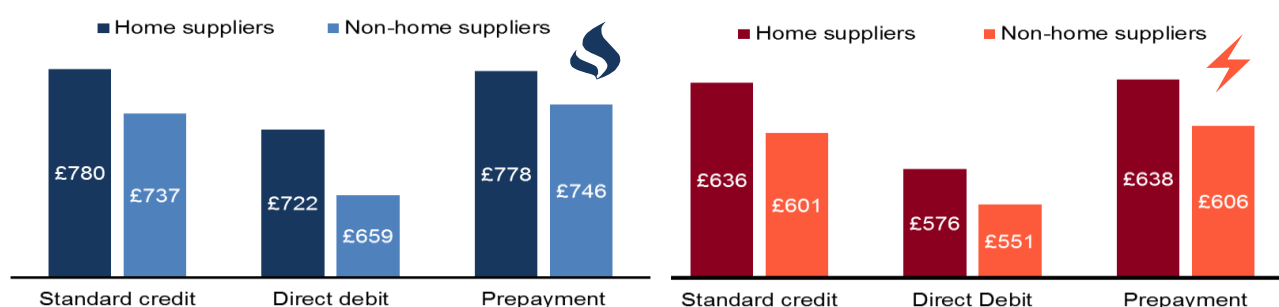


Figure 2 – 2015 Gas and Electricity bills by payment type and home / non-home supplier⁴

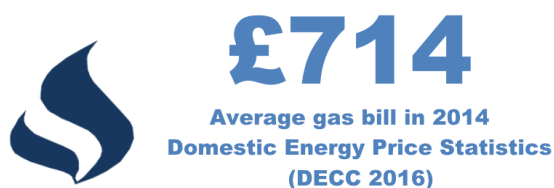


³ Methodology changed in 2007 to incorporate bills in a calendar year. Figures for 2014 and 2015 include a £12 government rebate applied to all electricity bills in Great Britain.

⁴ For electricity Bills, 'Home supplier' denotes the former public electricity suppliers within their own distribution areas; non-home suppliers are new entrant suppliers and the former electricity suppliers outside of their own areas. For Gas bills Home supplier denotes British Gas Trading; non-home suppliers are all other suppliers.

Gas

Government figures show that average standard credit bills for gas in England & Wales increased steadily in line with electricity from 2001 but more significantly, from £242 for an average household across all payment types to £752 in 2014, an increase of 211% in 13 years, as Figure 2 shows. 2015 saw gas prices finally fall across all payment types by £38 compared to 2014, to £714.



A Direct Debit customer with a non-home supplier paid, on average, £63 less than a customer who remained with their home supplier (in this context home supplier denotes British Gas Trading whilst non-home suppliers are all other suppliers).

The impact of these fuel price increases is cannot be underestimated, as the figures demonstrate that on average a household was paying a dual fuel bill in 2001 of £524 per year which had risen to £1298 per year in 2015, an increase of £774 per year an additional £64.5 per month more.

The comparative costs of other fuels

According to an authoritative Government report the average UK home uses gas for central heating and spends about £550 each year on space heating alone (BEAIS 2015). Providing the same amount of usable heat with an oil boiler costs about £700. With electric storage heaters on the lower Economy 7 tariff (12-7am), the costs would be approximately £900, while using standard rate electricity would cost up to £1,950. The reasons for these significant differences in cost are firstly the different cost of each type of energy and secondly the difference in efficiency with which each fuel is converted to useable heat.

It is clear that where it is available mains gas fuelled central heating is a reasonable choice to heat domestic properties. There are however locations across Stockton-on-Tees where mains gas is not available or the nature of the housing precludes the use of this fuel. Approximately 3000 homes across Stockton-on-Tees are not heated by mains gas particularly concentrated in the urban fringe areas and the villages.

2.4 Who is at risk?

It is often the vulnerable members of our communities that are most at risk of fuel poverty such as:

- Older people
- Young families
- Single people on income support
- People with long term illnesses or disabilities
- People in hard-to-heat homes

Fuel poverty effects can impact on a wide range of areas:

Increased ill health

Cold homes increase the risks of strokes, heart attacks and worsen circulatory diseases. Cold conditions also lower resistance to respiratory infections, worsen asthma and Chronic Obstructive

Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and also contribute to depression, mental health issues and social isolation. These are manifested as excess winter deaths (EWD) and seasonal ill-health.

Education

Fuel poverty can impact on educational attainment due to having no suitable room for home-based private study and inadequate funds to purchase books, stationery or other educational needs.

Social Exclusion

Where high concentrations of households in fuel poverty exist in an area it can also lead to adverse impacts on the wider community. This can result in a lack of investment in maintaining housing with subsequent environmental deterioration and damage to the local economy, as less money is available to spend in local shops and businesses.

Deterioration of the Housing Stock

Energy inefficient properties are more likely to suffer from damp and structural problems.

A number of the above will be in accommodation within the privately rented sector. Fuel poverty can have a significant effect on the health and well-being of affected people. Fuel poverty is widely, but not exclusively, linked to areas of deprivation. Where residents are able to pay to heat their homes adequately, poor insulation leads to very high fuel bills and carbon emissions.



3. Fuel poverty in Stockton-on-Tees

3.1 National and regional picture

On 3 March 2015, the government published 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm: a fuel poverty strategy for England', which followed the December 2014 announcement that successive Governments are bound by the following statutory fuel poverty target:



10.7%

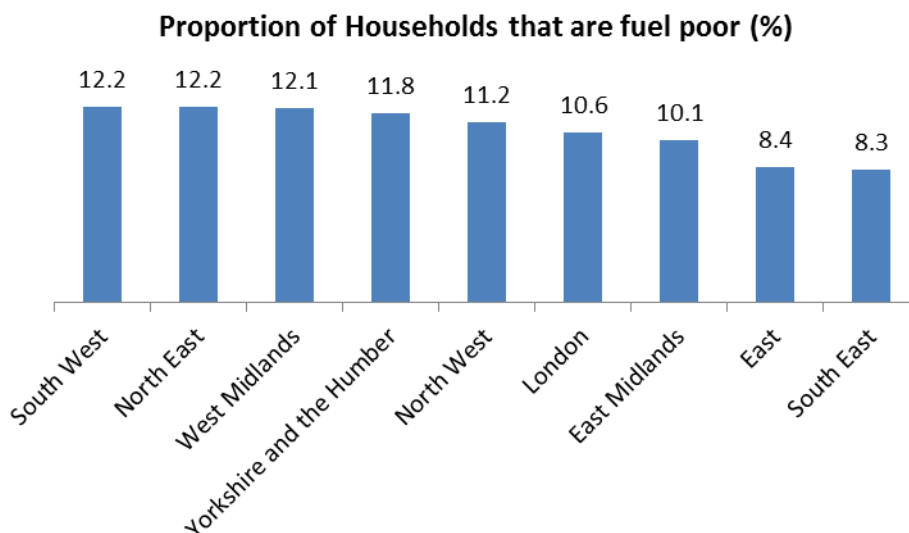
Proportion of Stockton-on-Tees households that are in Fuel Poverty (2014 estimate)

'to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by 2030'.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes fuel poverty estimates for the UK, the regions and local authority areas in June each year. The data is published on a two year time lag, so the most recent statistical release in June 2016 is for the calendar year 2014.

In 2014, the number of households in fuel poverty in England was estimated at 2.38 million, representing approximately 10.6% of all English households. This is an increase from 2.35 million households in 2013 (a 1.4% increase). The 2014 estimates are the first increase at a national level since 2009.

The Fuel Poverty estimates for all England's regions are illustrated below. At 12.2%, the North East estimate for 2014 is the joint highest in England. There are many factors that influence the regional picture including housing type, household income, health inequalities (which can impact upon people's ability to work), prevalence of pre-payment meters etc.



At 10.7% the estimate for Stockton-on-Tees is the second lowest amongst the North East authorities. Only North Tyneside at 9.9% currently has lower fuel poverty prevalence. Middlesbrough has the highest levels at 14.3% of all households with Northumberland (due to its age profile and rural nature resulting in lots of off gas properties) with 13.3%.

3.2 Stockton-on-Tees levels

Within the Tees Valley sub region, Stockton-on-Tees has had the lowest estimated level of fuel poverty consistently over recent years. The 2014 estimate shows a reduction of 0.4% from 11.1% in 2013 to 10.7% in 2014, and is counter to the increasing trend of fuel poverty in the UK during that period. According to the 2014 estimates, only Darlington of the five Tees Valley authorities was experiencing increasing levels of fuel poverty in that time.

	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate	2014 estimate
Darlington	11.8	12.5%	12.6%
Hartlepool	11.6	12.2%	11.8%
Middlesbrough	15.1	15.4%	14.3%
Redcar	11.4	12.1%	11.8%
Stockton	10.3	11.1%	10.7%

The reduction in fuel poverty levels to 10.7% of Stockton borough households was in contrast to rising levels across the UK.

3.3 Ward and LSOA level fuel poverty

What is important to remember however when tackling fuel poverty, is that the Stockton-on-Tees Borough average hides a wide variation in incidences of fuel poverty at a more local level. For example at a Lower Super Output area level, two localities only a few miles apart in Stockton-on-Tees have fuel poverty levels of 3.2% and 25.5% respectively, and therefore more detailed evidence than local authority area wide data must be used to effectively target. Mapping fuel poverty data can help us do that, and as figure 3 demonstrates, it provides good evidence for targeting interventions.

The June 2016 DECC data highlights:

- There are 120 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Stockton-on-Tees ; 90 saw a decrease in fuel poverty estimated levels in 2014, whilst 30 saw an increase. In stark contrast the 2013 figures saw 96 LSOA levels increasing and only 24 decreased.
- In 2014 the highest level of fuel poverty at ward level was in Newtown at 18.12% of households whilst the lowest was in the Northern Parishes at 3.3%. In 2014 the highest level was the Town Centre Ward at 18.13% of households whilst the lowest was in the Northern Parishes at 4.3%
- In 2014 the levels of fuel poverty at LSOA level ranged from 3.3% in the Northern Parishes to 25.5% in Parkfield & Oxbridge. In 2013 the levels ranged from 4.3% in the Northern Parishes to 29.4% in Parkfield & Oxbridge.
- The greatest increase in an individual LSOA fuel poverty rate from 2013 to 2014 was within an LSOA in the Village Ward at 3.8%
- The most significant decrease in an individual LSOA rate from 2013 to 2014 was within the Parkfield & Oxbridge Ward with a fall of 3.9%
- The 2014 average rate of fuel poverty amongst Stockton wards was 11.96% (12.45% in 2013)

- The 2014 average rate of fuel poverty amongst Thornaby Wards was 12.47% (12.43 in 2013)
- The 2014 average rate of fuel poverty amongst Billingham wards was 10.8% (Unchanged since 2013)
- The 2014 average rate of fuel poverty in the Western Parishes was 8.5% (9.1% in 2013)
- The 2014 average rate of fuel poverty in Yarm Ward was 8.3% (8.5% in 2013)
- The 2014 average rate of fuel poverty amongst Ingleby Barwick wards was 3.66% (4.98% in 2013)
- The 2014 rate of fuel poverty in the Northern Parishes was 3.3% (4.3% in 2013)

It must be remembered that while the term fuel poverty carries with it a strictly defined indicator, which is useful for legislative and comparative purposes, there are many who are just outside of the definition and who must make a daily compromise between being able to heat their homes adequately or feed their families. This broader consideration is termed 'Affordable Warmth'. It is affordable warmth in its broader sense that we aim to tackle in this strategy.



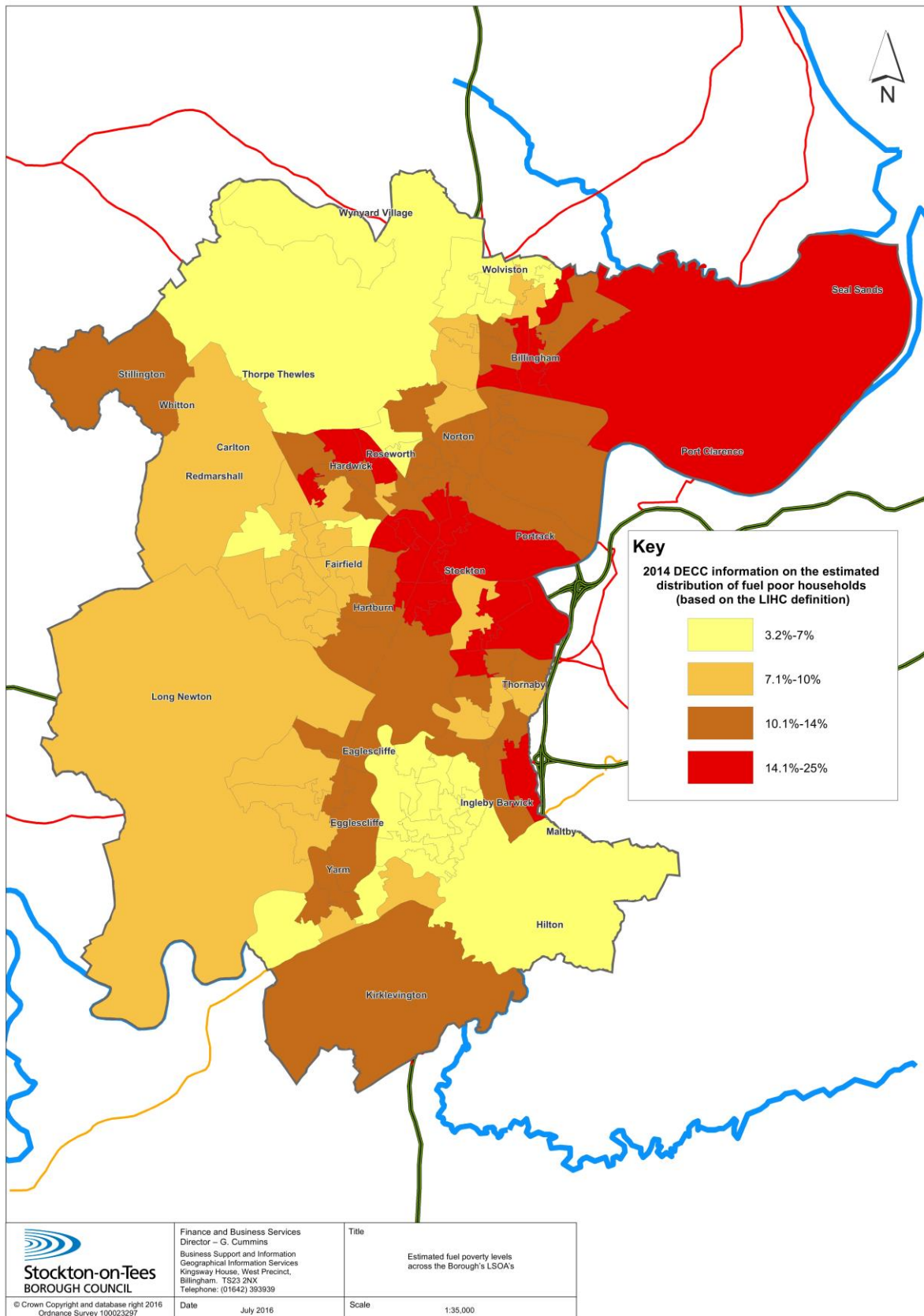


Figure 3 – proportion of fuel poor households in Stockton-on-Tees at June 2016

4. Delivering action in Stockton-on-Tees

4.1 Contributing to wider health strategy

The Affordable Warmth Strategy recognises the links between the health, economic and environmental impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty and aims to strengthen the concerted effort between partners to tackle the health inequalities associated with fuel poverty. The

Affordable Warmth Strategy and its ever evolving Action Plan are intended to be entirely complimentary to Stockton's joint Health & Well Being Strategy (2012-18) and Seasonal Health and Well Being Strategy (2013-16). The added value of the Affordable Warmth Strategy and Action Plan are the partnership efforts to tackle the wider socio-economic effects of fuel poverty.



£2.6 million

'Health related' quality of life savings to Stockton-on-Tees residents since 2012 (Newcastle University Eco Evaluation 2016)

4.2 Delivering action

The Council and its partners have a history of delivering home energy efficiency and affordable warmth programmes, and both small scale and large scale area based schemes. Some examples of the important delivery that's taken place to tackle these issues include:

- Delivering the largest scale CESP in the UK in 2012/13 and part of the ECO early starter programme in 2013/14. Stockton's external wall insulation programme continued in 2014/15 funded through EON as an obligated supplier, however during this period the Government began to scale back the amount of funding per tonne of carbon saved (from £102 per tonne to £42). This continued into 2015/16, eventually reaching a point which rendered future programmes unsustainable. The programmes have delivered some impressive outcomes and the table below provides a summary of the number of households benefitting.

Year	Boiler installations	Loft and cavity wall insulations	External Wall insulations
2012/13	310	154	1205
2013/14	563	300	1300
2014/15	-	196	575
2015/16	308	-	88
TOTAL	1181	650	3168

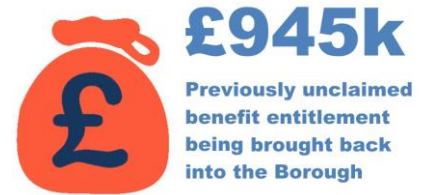
- In March 2016, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council commissioned Newcastle University (fully externally funded) to undertake the UK's first, large scale independent health and return on investment evaluation of ECO funded measures across 8 Stockton-on-Tees LSOA's, at the request of the Department for Health (DfH) and BEAIS. The study was completed in December 2016 and empirically assess whether the health of individual householders has been improved through the application of external wall insulation, and whether there is a related financial benefit to the National Health Service. The report concludes that such schemes reduce energy consumption and costs for householders, by up to 32% in some cases, and have realised energy cost savings to Stockton-on-Tees householders of up to £6.2 million since 2012. The report also estimates health related quality of life savings of £2.6 million since 2012.



4,999

Total No of householders improved under CESP and ECO

- Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP) is a package of interventions to support individuals and households by tackling cold homes and promoting wellbeing. The intervention was launched in 2012 and October 3rd 2016 saw the 6th programme beginning.



- Since 2012 WHHP has dealt with 4202 referrals and 5952 specific interventions have been delivered, including over £945k of previously unclaimed benefit entitlement being brought into the Borough

- The Thirteen Group are investing in energy efficiency measures to 1,638 homes during 2016/17 comprising of 1,919 specific measures from replacement windows, insulation treatments to the installation of photovoltaic panels. In 2017/18 the Thirteen Group's investment will continue with another 500 homes set to receive energy efficiency measures, continuing to address specific property needs and fuel poverty concerns for customers.

- Stockton District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS) provide comprehensive support to residents to address debt, fuel debt specifically and promote income maximisation. The organisation have secured funding to develop a Winter Resilience Programme to provide vulnerable households with 'whole house' support on insulation and energy saving measures

- Stockton Council in partnership with SDAIS has promoted and continues to promote The Big Community Switch each autumn in an attempt to help residents achieve the best value for money tariff for their gas and electricity. The households that took part in the switch in the last 4 years are predicted to have collectively saved over £136,000 on their fuel bills.



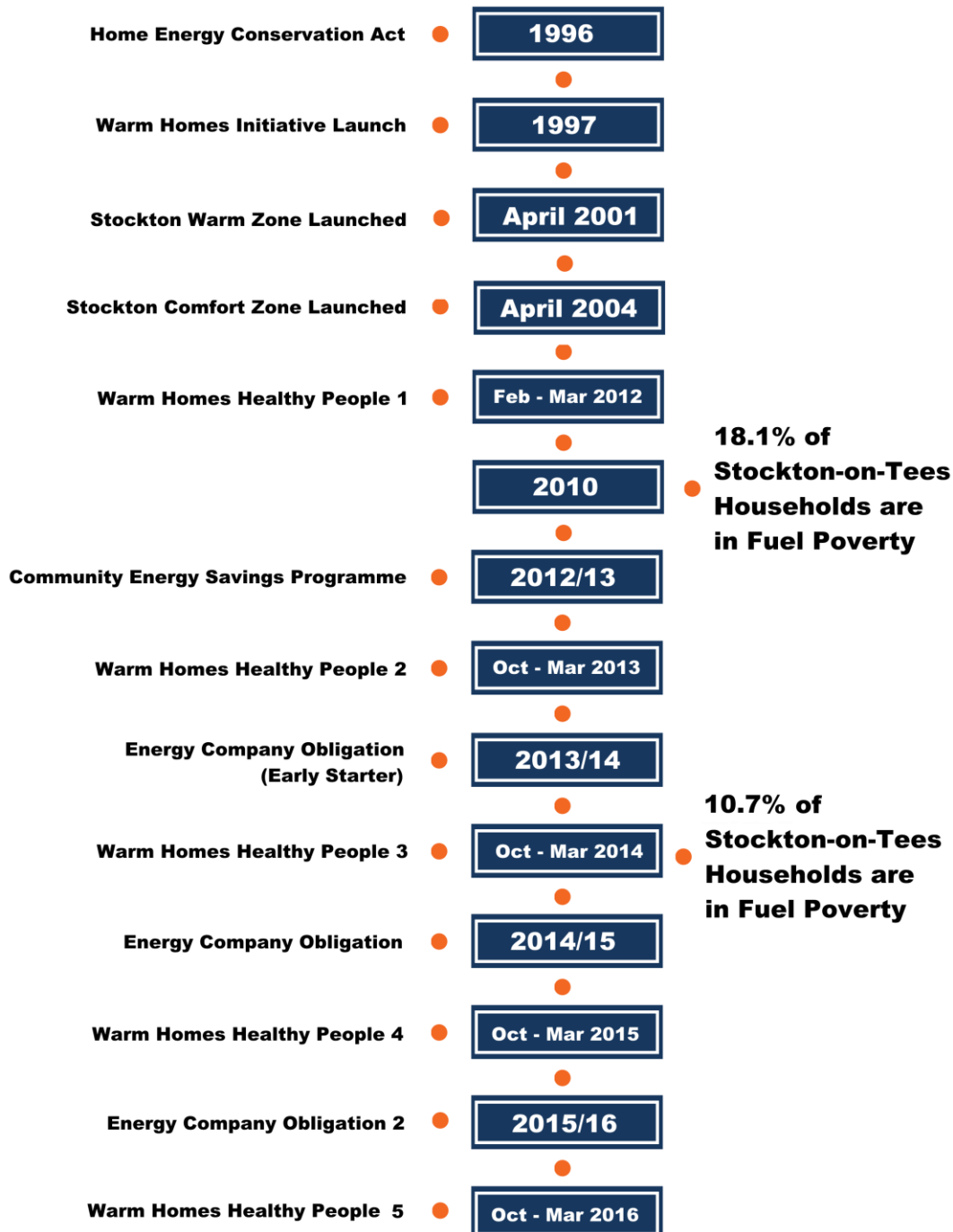
- Cleveland Fire Service delivered and continue to deliver their Stay Warm & Safe Campaign as a 24/7 response to crisis situations across the Borough for example by delivering portable heaters, blankets etc. to for instance households experiencing a boiler breakdown.

- Public Health – Recognising the impact cold homes on health and wellbeing have committed to promote affordable warmth in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and by funding the Warm Homes Healthy People package of measures since 2012. WHHP continues as a key intervention and funding was in place for the 2016/17 intervention to begin on October 3rd, 2016.

- SBC Housing are a key partner in the Warm Homes Healthy People initiative and promote energy efficiency measures and considerations whenever helping to return empty homes to use or tackling excess cold hazards through the direct involvement of the Private Sector Housing Team.

- The achievements of the wide ranging programmes delivered over recent years is already recognised nationally, most recently by National Energy Action (NEA), the UK's leading charity who champion the affordable warmth agenda. In their 2016 assessment of the extent to which Health and Well Being Boards in England were taking action on cold-related ill health through strategic planning, partnership approaches and delivering practical measures, we achieved maximum scores in all attributes

A Timeline of Interventions in Stockton-on-Tees



5. Our Objectives and Indicators

5.1 Objectives

As a Housing Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership our objectives are:

1 Target our efforts and resources

1.1 Ensure the most vulnerable residents and the most energy inefficient properties are prioritised and targeted

2 Raise and maintain the profile of fuel poverty and affordable warmth

2.1 Ensure affordable warmth and the trap of fuel poverty is recognised at the highest levels within the Council and partner organisations and remains a high priority

2.2 Monitor the progress of the action plan and its interventions

3 Support residents

3.1 Support householders to gain the lowest possible tariffs, and to reduce social inequalities in energy costs

3.2 Support householders to maximise their income to help pay energy bills

3.3 Help householders reduce their energy consumption, by improved energy efficiency in their homes, and through better energy usage

3.4 Provide interventions to support residents in crisis due to cold homes

4 Improve the Housing Stock

4.1 Continual improvement in the standard, warmth and energy efficiency of all housing

5.2 Indicators

No.	Indicator	Target
1	Percentage of households in fuel poverty (as defined by the national Low Income High Cost indicator)	Year on year reduction from a baseline of 10.7%
2	Number of households in fuel poverty receiving home improvements	1500 by March 2018
3	Increase in average SAP rating of domestic housing stock	Year on year increase from a baseline of 61

6. Action Plan

1. Target our efforts and resources	Projects and actions	Responsibility	Targets	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
1.1 Ensure the most vulnerable residents and the most energy inefficient properties are prioritised and targeted	Maintain the UNO database with updates from partners including RP's and SBC Housing. To include advice on investment in measures to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock.	SBC EGDS, SBC Housing Services & Registered Providers	Updates in April, and October	●	●	●
	Identify and prioritise fuel poor households, wards and LSOAs using demographic information and public health indicators on the prevalence of key diseases and long term conditions	SBC EGDS and Public Health	Data available in throughout the year to assist in targeting interventions	●	●	●
	Annual update of the targeting information made available to partners to help inform priorities and keep targeting relevant and focussed	SBC EGDS	Latest data available in September of each year to assist in targeting interventions	●	●	●

2. Raise and maintain the profile of fuel poverty and affordable warmth	Projects and actions	Responsibility	Targets	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
2.1 Ensure affordable warmth and the trap of fuel poverty is recognised at the highest levels within the Council and partner organisations and remains a high priority	<p>Produce and present refreshed Affordable Warmth Strategy to the Housing, Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership</p> <p>Maintain the multi-agency Housing, Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership within structure of Local Strategic Partnership</p> <p>Report performance on Fuel Poverty levels and SAP rating improvements via bi-ennial HECA progress report</p> <p>Ensure that fuel poverty issues are reflected in all relevant sections within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</p> <p>Annual review of the Affordable Warmth Action Plan achievements highlighting changes in fuel poverty levels, ongoing priorities and actions</p>	<p>SBC and all H.N & AWP members</p> <p>SBC EGDS</p> <p>SBC EGDS</p> <p>SBC and Public Health</p> <p>SBC EGDS</p>	<p>January 2017 and 2019</p> <p>Partnership meets a minimum of twice annually</p> <p>Bi-ennial HECA report by 31 March</p> <p>Refreshed JSNA with high profile fuel poverty information</p> <p>Annual Review conducted in January each year</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p></p> <p>●</p> <p></p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>
2.2 Monitor the progress of the action plan and its interventions	<p>The H,N&AW Partnership will meet to discuss priorities, progress and forward plan</p> <p>Maintain accurate data to monitor performance against three fuel poverty indicators</p>	<p>All</p> <p>SBC EGDS</p>	<p>The fuel poverty partnership meets regularly</p> <p>See section 5.2</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p>

3 Support Residents	Projects and actions	Responsibility	Targets	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
3.1 Support householders to gain the lowest possible tariffs, and to reduce social inequalities in energy costs	Coordinate and promote uptake of collective switching schemes to reduce residents energy expenditure	SBC EGDS	Deliver annual switching event	●	●	●
	Investigate opportunities for lower cost energy supply to residents such as potential Community Energy solutions	All Housing, Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership members	Updates at each meeting	●	●	●
	Seek lower-rate tariff options for pre-pay meter householders	All Housing, Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership members	Updates at each meeting	●	●	●
	Investigate opportunities for localised & sustainable energy supply to households such as district heating and communal PV electricity generation	SBC EGDS	Updates at each meeting	●	●	●
	Direct purchase and supply of lower cost energy via formation of Energy Services Company (ESCo)	Registered providers	Updates at each meeting	●	●	●
3.2 Support householders to maximise their income to help pay energy bills	Identify and target support on benefits advice, welfare advice and budgeting advice to residents, using energy efficiency, deprivation and fuel poverty data	SBC EGDS, SDAIS, Welfare Advice, WHHP Partners	Updates at each meeting	●	●	●
3.3 Assist householders	Target residents through events and	All Housing,	Events and	●	●	●

to reduce their energy consumption through improved energy efficiency and behavioural change	campaigns using energy efficiency, deprivation and fuel poverty data	Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership members	campaigns to be held through the year			
	Organise energy efficiency / affordable warmth events in communities	SBC and SDAIS	Events and campaigns to be held through the year	●	●	●
	Deliver frontline staff training on household energy efficiency and affordable warmth issues	All Housing, Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership members	Training to be delivered	●	●	●
	Provide home energy efficiency and usage advice to encourage behaviour change within the clients home	SDAIS	Monitor number of households where advice given	●	●	●
	Support SDAIS in development of energy advice outreach	SBC EGDS and partners	Support as required	●	●	●
3.4 Provide interventions to support residents in crisis due to cold homes	Deliver a Warm Homes Healthy People programme to support residents throughout the cold weather months	SBC EGDS, Public Health and commissioned partners	Report outcomes and achievements to H,N & AW and H&WB boards annually	●	●	●

4. Improve the housing	Projects and actions	Responsibility	Targets	2016/17	2017/18	2087/19
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Stock						
4.1 Continual improvement in the standard, warmth and energy efficiency of all housing	Registered Housing Providers and Private Sector Landlords returning long term empty residential properties to include energy efficiency measures when undertaking property improvements	SBC Housing Services Empty Properties Team, RP's and landlords	Number of empty properties returned to use where there has been an element of energy efficiency investment	●	●	●
	Via the Landlord Accreditation Scheme ensure all landlords of properties with EPC "E" or below are aware they are unable to rent it out after 2018 unless improvements are made	Stockton BC Housing Services	Obligation highlighted to all private sector landlords	●	●	●
	Deliver direct measures to reduce the number of excess cold hazards	Private Sector Housing Team	Reduce the number of excess cold hazards	●	●	●
	Promote high energy efficiency standards within new-build properties	SBC and providers	Report back to the Housing, N'hood and Affordable Warmth Partnership	●	●	●
	Improve the energy efficiency of social and private housing stock through planned investment	SBC and providers Thirteen Group, Northstar etc.	Report back to the Housing, N'hood and Affordable Warmth Partnership	●	●	●

Abbreviations

COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CESP	Community Energy Savings Programme
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
ECO	Energy Company Obligation
EGDS	Economic Growth and Development Service
EWD	Excess Winter Deaths
EWI	External wall Insulation
FPP	Fuel Poverty Partnership
HCA	Homes and Communities Agency
H&WB	Health and Well Being Board
HECA	Home Energy Conservation Act
H,N & AWP	Housing, Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LIHC	Low Income High Cost
RP	Registered Providers
SAP	Standard Assessment Procedure
SBC	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
SDAIS	Stockton and District Advice and Information Service
WHHP	Warm Homes Healthy People

Local partners

There are wide ranging partners supporting the delivery of measures in Stockton on Tees, including:

Broadacres, Catalyst, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Five Lamps, Northstar Group, Stockton District Advice and Information Service, Stockton on Tees Borough Council, Tees Valley Community Foundation Thirteen Group

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Web link

This report can be found at the following link:

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/environment-and-housing/climate-carbon-and-energy/fuel-poverty-and-affordable-warmth/>