

# People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 20th February, 2017.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell(Chairman), Cllr Eileen Johnson(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Gillian Corr (Sub Cllr Kevin Faulks), Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Di Hewitt

**Officers:** Stephen Shaw (EGDS), Peter Mennear, Jenna McDonald (DCE)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley

**PEO  
58/16**      **Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

**PEO  
59/16**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**PEO  
60/16**      **ECO External Wall Insulation and Health Evaluation Update**

Members received a report on ECO External Wall Insulation and Health Evaluation Update. Key points were highlighted as follows:

- It was recommended that an evaluation of current and planned projects be carried out to measure and understand their long term health impacts, carbon efficiency, social and economic impacts. Newcastle University was commissioned to undertake the evaluation.
- Levels of fuel poverty in Stockton-on-Tees had reduced from 11.1% in 2013 to 10.7% in 2014, in the 2016 sub-regional national data by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the second lowest level amongst the North East authorities<sup>1</sup>. SBCs approach was to work in partnership and offer a wide range of preventative and reactive measures such as Warmer Homes Healthy People programmes and encourage large scale, area wide insulation measures funded through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
- 4999 households had been improved since 2012 in the 4 wards and 11 Lower Super Output Area's (LSOA's) with the highest prevalence of fuel poverty. This had resulted in measurable reductions in fuel poverty levels in these areas, however government funding was scaled back from 2013 resulting in ECO scheme delivery in Stockton-on-Tees being concluded in February 2016.
- SBC secured external funding and commissioned Newcastle University to independently evaluate the health and economic benefits of area based energy efficiency measures, and provided a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis, which will be used to inform national policy debates on the future of such schemes.
- Fuel poverty and the implications of not being able to access affordable warmth had the ability to significantly affect individuals and households in a variety of ways, including exacerbating health conditions, social isolation,

psychological stress and in the most extreme cases, leading to Excess Winter Deaths (EWD).

- 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 (an increase of 1.4%).

- SBCs approach was to offer a wide range of preventative and reactive measures in partnership with energy suppliers, funders and third sector partners to improve living and economic conditions for households.

- Members heard that the most significant programme of measures in improving housing and economic conditions had been large scale, area based insulation schemes, and the street by street approach had been delivered on a scale not seen elsewhere in the UK. The precursor to the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded insulation programmes was the cavity wall and loft insulation schemes delivered under Warm Zone between 2001 and 2004 with 15,000 homes improved in Stockton-on-Tees.

- SBC delivered the largest scale CESP in the UK in 2012/13 and were part of the ECO early starter programme in 2013/14.

AGREED that:

1. Members noted the positive findings from the evaluation of previous energy efficiency measures of health related savings of £2.6m and lowering fuel costs by £6.2m.

2. Members noted the reduction in fuel poverty levels in Stockton-on-Tees and the significant performance in delivering large scale energy efficiency measures under CESP and ECO.

3. Members noted the challenges and opportunities faced by SBC as a result of the review of ECO nationally.

4. Members supported a future report detailing the outcomes from the Government's consultation on the future of ECO and its significance for future insulation schemes in Stockton-on-Tees.

**PEO  
61/16**      **Work Programme**

Consideration was given to the work programme 2016/17.

It was noted that a meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday 21st February 2017 which would agree future reviews for all Select Committees moving forward.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.

**PEO  
62/16**      **Chair's Update**

The Chair congratulated Members of the Committee on the success of the review of Disadvantage in Early Years.

AGREED that the update be noted.