

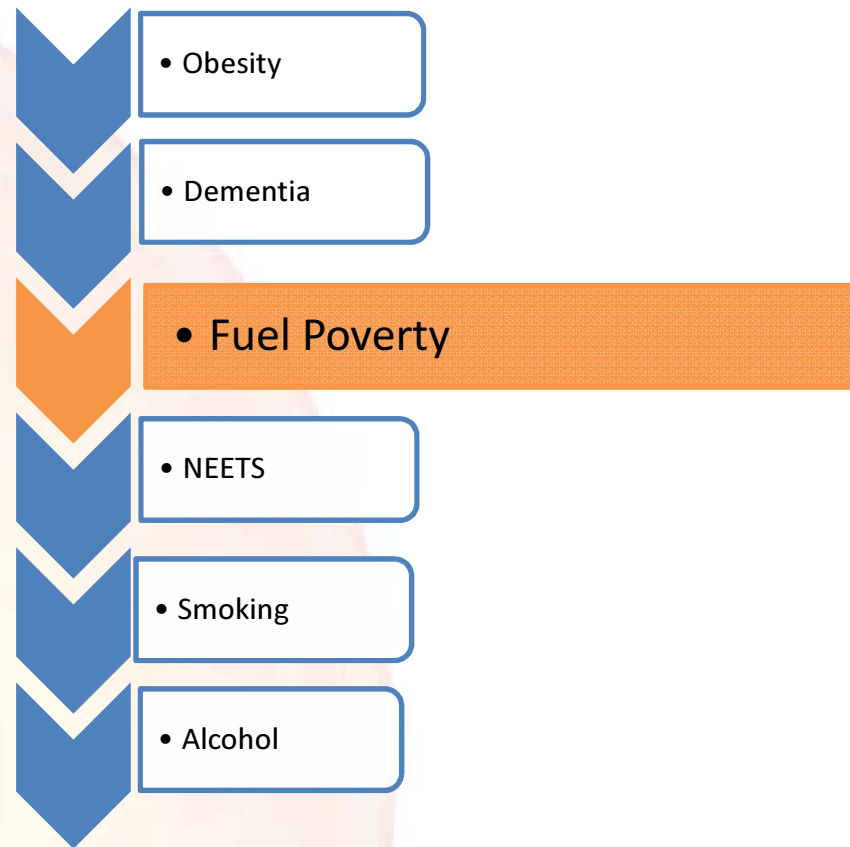


Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Fuel Poverty Priority

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Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities



Why is fuel poverty a priority? (1)

- **Current definition:** When a householder **needs** to spend more than **10%** of their income to **adequately heat their home**
- **Causes of fuel poverty:** energy efficiency of the property; fuel costs; behaviours and knowledge, characteristics; and, household income
- Fuel poverty is a serious problem from **three main perspectives:** poverty, health and well-being and carbon reduction
- **Heat or Eat**

Why is fuel poverty a priority? (2)

- **Cold weather kills.** Living in a cold home has significant implications on the health and wellbeing of residents across our borough, particularly the most vulnerable
- People with an existing chronic health condition or disability, the very young or older people are **more at risk** from the negative impacts of living in a cold home
- Children living in cold homes are likely to have **poorer attendance** and **attainment** in school

The Private and Social Cost of Premature Death and Illness Related to Cold Homes

	Premature Death	Cardio Vascular Illness	Respiratory Illness	Falls at Home	Common Mental Disorders	Total Cost
Loss of Well-Being	£1.500	£1.216	£0.440	£0.636	£5.152	£9.044
NHS Cost						
Secondary	£0.111	£0.258	£0.088	£0.133	£0.399	
Primary	£0.013	£0.021	£0.017	£0.029	£0.161	
Total NHS Cost	£0.124	£0.279	£0.105	£0.162	£0.560	£1.230
Social Care Cost	£0.006	£0.012	£0.007	£0.008	£0.103	£0.136
GDP Loss	-	-	-	-	£0.453	£0.453
Total Cost	£1.730	£1.507	£0.552	£0.806	£6.268	£10.863

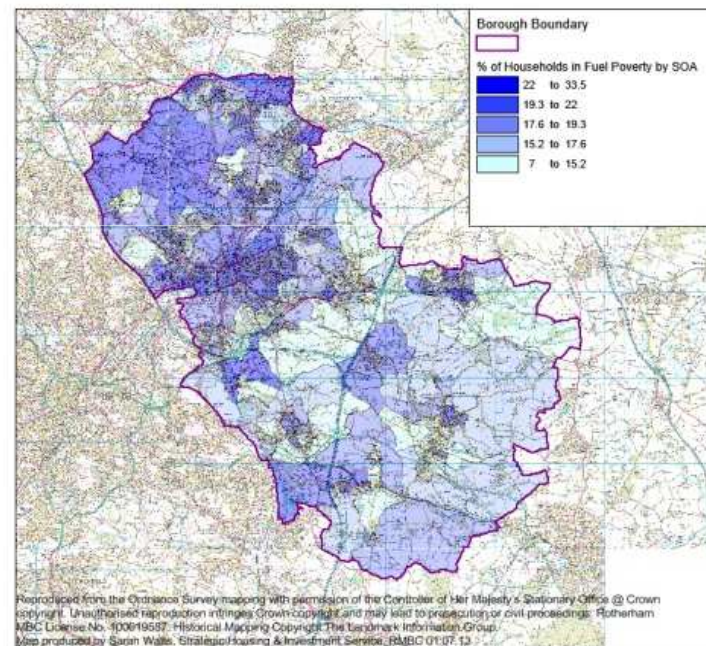
Rotherham, 2009/10, £ Million

The Private and Social Cost of Premature Death and Illness Related to Cold Homes

- Source of evidence:
 - English Housing Conditions Survey
 - Mental Health and Housing Conditions in England, National Centre for Housing Research 2010
 - Housing Health and Safety Rating System
- **Economic model** mapping **cold, damp** and **mould** to **probability** of harm
- Probability of harm further mapped to **economic** and **NHS cost**
- Probable this is an **underestimate** of effect since the model assumes only **one person per dwelling**

Rotherham

- Fuel poverty levels **above** National average
- The rise in fuel prices – energy costs have risen 96% since 2004 , or an average of £700 over the same period
- Average of **144** Excess Winter Deaths per year 1990-2010
- **17,800** council properties have been supported through Carbon Energy Reduction Target (CERT)
- **400** council properties have received solid wall insulation through CERT
- **1049** private sector properties have received solid wall insulation through the Community Energy Saving Program (CESP)
- **1,649** non traditional build properties in the borough
- **Green Deal (GD)** including **Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

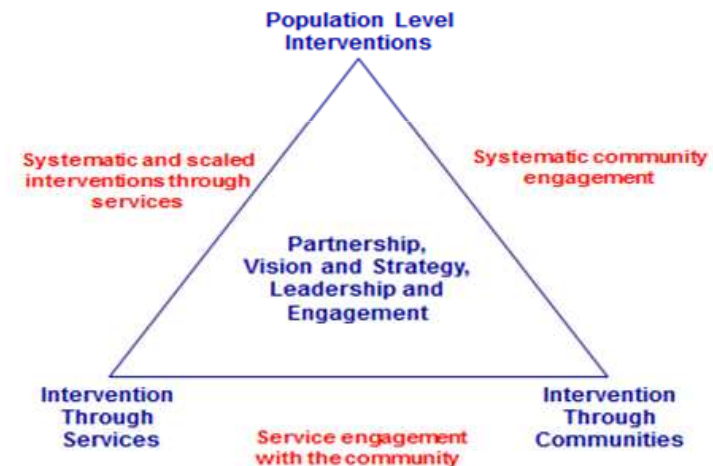


Strategic Objectives

- **Reduce levels of fuel poverty** across the Borough
- Significantly **reduce levels of cold related illness** and **excess winter deaths**
- **All** of Rotherham's occupied **private rented housing stock** has an Energy Performance rating of **E** and above
- Target all council stock **not improved** under Decent Homes because of resident choice
- **Raise awareness** of fuel poverty and associated interventions amongst RMBC staff, partner organisations and householders
- Meet vision and ambitions set in the **Rotherham Warmer Homes Strategy (RWHS)**

What do we need to do?

- **Continue** to engage **new** and **existing stakeholders** through the RWHS
- Set up and **deliver** the Green Deal /Energy Company Obligation framework
- **Continue** to utilise **existing intelligence** and support **development** of **new** research
- **Raise awareness** of links between **health** and **fuel poverty**
- Use **MECC** as a tool to ensure **more departments / staff** raise issues of **fuel poverty**
- **Maximise** personal assets, capability and behaviour
- Adopt a **whole systems** approach to reduce levels of fuel poverty



Producing Percentage Change at Population Level

C. Bentley
2007

Challenges

- **Causes of fuel poverty**
- Structural and organisational **change**
- **Reliance of new policy** as main vehicle
- **Lack** of engagement and understanding
- Most **vulnerable** and **hard to reach** populations **most likely** to be in fuel poverty
- **Welfare Reform**
- **Climate** impacts

The Threat of Winter



What can the H&WB do?

- Professionals consider the effect of cold on patients / clients and use the principles of MECC to signpost and advise e.g. Willmott Dixon
- Support the use of the Winter Warmth England toolkit www.winterwarmthengland.co.uk
- Support **Green Deal** as a RMBC **priority**
- Support and attend the '**Warm Well Families Feedback**' event and '**Abacus**' workshop



Thank you for listening, any questions?

Further details from Catherine Homer

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