



Powys County Council Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

This statement sets out Powys County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO: Help to Heat programme from April 2017 forward. The scheme will be subject to funding and may be closed at any time. It aims to support households living in Powys who are most likely to experience fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

Introduction - Powys County Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty within the county. The Council has worked for many years to improve homes across Powys with the aim of increasing energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty.

What is flexible eligibility - Local Authorities working with Energy suppliers obligated under ECO, have the opportunity to extend eligibility criteria for energy efficiency measures to households not covered by existing schemes of support.

Identifying households - Funding is only available for private owner occupiers and private rented tenants. Qualification of flexible eligibility in Powys is restricted to those in fuel poverty (spending more than 10% of income on household fuel). Eligibility will be determined by criteria listed below and requires a signed declaration by the property owner.

Qualifying measures - The energy efficiency measures that can be installed in eligible properties include new central heating systems, heating upgrades and insulation.

Contractors - Energy suppliers and/or their agents involved with flexible eligibility surveys and identified works, will be expected to comply with the Data Protection Act. They will need to undertake work in accordance with Ofgem requirements and act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards.

Cost Associated with Powys Declaration - The administration charge levied by Powys County Council in providing the declaration necessary for clients to access the ECO Flexible Eligibility scheme is £150. This charge must be paid by the energy supplier or their agent on completion of works and may NOT under any circumstances, be passed on to the client receiving assistance via the scheme.

Final decision - The decision on whether a household receives a measure under flexible eligibility or other ECO funding streams will be made by the **energy supplier** or their **agent/contractor**. Qualification in the statement of intent or the Declaration by Powys County Council will **NOT** guarantee installation of any measures, as the final decision will lie with the **supplier**.

Question 1 - Qualifying Criteria

To qualify:

- i) you must indicate you are in fuel poverty by answering **yes** to the initial qualifying question and sign the declaration at the end of the form.
- ii) the property must be rated an **F** or **G** on an EPC or score **15 points** or more in Table 1 below; or .
- iii) the property must have a rating of an **E** on an EPC or have a score between **10 and 14** points in Table 1 below and a member of the household is **vulnerable** and at greater risk due to living in a cold property. Vulnerability is ascertained by answering **yes** to one or more of the situations/conditions in Question 2.

Table 1 - Property Condition

House features	Type	Points	Tick box	Score
Bedrooms	1	1		
	2	2		
	3+	3		
Household occupants	1	1		
	2	2		
	3+	3		
Loft Insulation	None	5		
	Up to 150mm	3		
	150mm and above	1		
Wall Type	System built	5		
	Solid stone/brick	3		
	Cavity construction/Unknown	1		
Wall insulation	External	1		
	Internal	1		
	Cavity	2		
	None	5		
Heating fuel	Mains gas	1		
	Oil	2		
	LPG	3		
	Electric	5		
	Solid fuel	5		
Central Heating system age	Less than 10 years old	1		
	Over ten years old	3		
	Broken system	5		
	No system	5		
			Total	

Question 2 - Client Vulnerability

If it is necessary to demonstrate that householders are at a greater risk to the effects of living in a cold home, Powys County Council adopt the following approach:

Powys County Council will target households containing people from the following list, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' states that: a wide range of people are at greater risk to the cold. This is either because of a medical condition, such as heart disease; a disability that, for instance, stops people moving around to keep warm, or makes them more likely to develop chest infections; or personal circumstances, such as being unable to afford to keep warm enough.

A member of the household is/has

- i. Aged over 60 (proof of age necessary)
- ii. Children under 5 and those in primary and secondary school education or is pregnant
- iii. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- iv. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- v. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- vi. Substance misusers
- vii. Dementia
- viii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- ix. Cancer
- x. Limited mobility
- xi. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xii. Severe learning disabilities
- xiii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

Signed declaration by doctor or health practitioner necessary to confirm any health related issues listed above (iii – xiii).

Governance

The following Private Sector Housing Officers will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of the Local Authority -

Private Sector Housing Lead, Service Improvement Officer, Environmental Health Officer, Housing Standards & Improvement Officer, Affordable Warmth & Renewable Energy Officer.

Monitoring

The number of households contacted and eligible for ECO Flexible Eligibility, together with the number of ECO Flexible Eligibility funded measures installed along with numbers of homes improved will be recorded by Powys County Council.

Signature

Signed by:



Date:

19 FEBRUARY 2018.

Housing Portfolio Holder, Powys County Council

Statement of Intent version 1

URL - <https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/2723/Home-Improvement-Loans--Financial-Assistance>

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