

# Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

## Surrey County Council

Version 2.0: September 2017

- 1) Name of the local authority: Surrey County Council
- 2) Local authorities Surrey County Council are acting on behalf of:
  - Elmbridge Borough Council
  - Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
  - Guildford Borough Council
  - Mole Valley District Council
  - Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
  - Spelthorne Borough Council
  - Surrey Heath Borough Council
  - Tandridge District Council
  - Waverley Borough Council
  - Woking Borough Council
- 3) Date of publication 06/09/17
- 4) Published at: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/environment-housing-and-planning/energy-sustainability/surrey-energy-and-sustainability-partnership>

### 1) Introduction

This Statement of Intent (SOI) sets out how households in Surrey will be declared to be eligible for ECO: Help to Heat funding, in accordance with guidelines from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This scheme is part of the government's Affordable Warmth programme.

The ECO: Help to Heat funding scheme aims to direct an increased proportion of funding to low income households (not just those in receipt of specific benefits) and/or people with specific health conditions. Either of these situations can make people more vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

*“Cold homes and poor housing conditions have been linked with a range of health problems in children and young people, including respiratory health, growth and long-term health. In older people, cold temperatures increase the risk of heart attack, stroke and circulatory problems, respiratory disease, flu and hospital admission. They also lower strength and dexterity, leading to an increase in the likelihood of falls and accidental injuries. Home temperatures also have implications for mental health because cold is linked with increased risk of depression and anxiety.”* (Adapted from [Local action on health inequalities evidence review 7: fuel poverty and cold home-related health problems](#) (2014) Public Health England)

Surrey County Council works in partnership with the boroughs and districts in Surrey (10 out of 11 are in the energy advice partnership) and the six Clinical Commissioning Groups covering the county, through a variety of partnership arrangements including the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Surrey Energy and Sustainability Partnership.

There are two **referring agencies** in place for domestic energy efficiency grant funding in boroughs and districts in Surrey and these will be utilised for ECO Flexibility: Help to Heat funding:

- i. In Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell, Guildford, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Tandridge, Waverley and Woking residents will be referred to the energy advice service provider 'Action Surrey', which is a project initiative of Thamesway Energy Ltd.
- ii. In Runnymede, residents will be referred to the energy saving service Heat Surrey. Runnymede Borough Council will have their own methodology of eligibility, targeting and promotion set out in a separate SOI.

The referring agency, Action Surrey, will assess eligibility in line with this statement and will refer households deemed eligible to either an ECO broker or directly to an energy company, depending on market conditions at the time.

In all areas, the final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from energy saving improvements under the government's Affordable Warmth programme will be made by the obligated suppliers or their agents/contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration authorised by Surrey County Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on i) survey carried out by suppliers agents/contractors and 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.

## **2) How the LA intends to identify eligible households**

ECO Flexibility Help to Heat funding is only available to private tenure households.

In order to be eligible for this funding, a household must fit one, or more of the following criteria:

- a) Living in fuel poverty, but not in receipt of benefits ('fuel poverty')*
- b) Low income and vulnerability to cold ('LIVC')*
- c) Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) "in-fill"*

Surrey County Council will keep these criteria under review, in relation to levels of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities.

### **2(a) Criteria for identifying 'Living in fuel poverty, but not in receipt of benefits'**

Fuel poverty is defined as living with **low income but high heating costs**. Surrey County Council will assess two elements to determine eligibility:

- i) For the '**low income**' portion of this indicator, the referring agency will look to find evidence that a member of the household is in receipt of an income-related benefit in

the first instance. Should the resident not receive any income-related benefits then the referring agency will use income thresholds, as set out in BEIS guidance for ECO Flexible Eligibility document (Figure 1). Should a household have an income under these thresholds, depending on composition, then it will be identified as being 'low income'.

Net income means gross income (income from work/pension and/or income from benefits or tax credits) minus income tax and housing costs which is rent or mortgage payments.

**Figure 1: Household net income thresholds – after accounting for housing costs:**

Household composition	Annual household income	Monthly household income Equivalent
<b>1 adult</b>	£10,648	£885
and 1 child	£13,448	£1,125
and 2 children	£16,148	£1,345
and three children	£19,048	£1,585
and four or more children	£21,848	£1,825
<b>2 adults</b>	£16,384	£1,365
and 1 child	£19,148	£1,595
and 2 children	£21,948	£1,825
and three children	£24,848	£2,075
and four children	£27,448	£2,285

- ii) For the '**high heating costs**' portion of the indicator, the referring agency, Action Surrey, will look to identify eligible households as those that have an **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of 'E' or lower**. These properties will be identified using the Building Research Establishment (BRE) Housing Stock Assessment for Surrey. In the unlikely event that a property does not appear in the assessment Action Surrey will score the household using the methodology in Table 2 (Scores applied to high cost question responses). Households exceeding a **minimum score of 5 points** will be deemed to be high cost.

**Figure 2: Scores applied to ‘high heating cost’ question responses**

Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are there in the home?	1	0
	2	10
	3	17
	4	27
	5 or more	36
	No response	17
Does the property have a prepayment meter?	No	-7
	Yes	0
	No response	-7
What type of house is it?	Park Homes	36
	Detached	6
	Detached Bungalow	0
	Semi Detached	-4
	End Terrace	-4
	Converted Flat	-9
	Mid Terrace	-10
	Semi Detached Bungalow	-10
	Purpose Built Flat	-20
	No response	-4
Was the home built before 1964?	Yes	17
	No	0
	No response	17
What is the main fuel type?	Gas (mains)	-14
	Electricity	0
	Oil/LPG/Coal	12
	Other	-10
	No response	-14
Does at least one member of the household spend most of the day in the home?	Yes	1
	No	0
	No response	0

**2(b) Criteria for identifying ‘low income and vulnerability to cold’ (LIVC)**

Surrey County Council will assess three elements to determine eligibility:

- i) ‘low income’ portion of this identifier as set out in the previous section for ‘fuel poverty’.
- ii) ‘high heating cost’ as set out in the previous section for ‘fuel poverty’
- iii) vulnerability to cold will be assessed in conjunction with Adult Social Care or by the referring agency asking residents to inform them of any health conditions they may suffer from, which have been diagnosed by a healthcare professional. This

information will be cross-referenced against the NICE<sup>1</sup> guidelines and quality statement for the health risks associated with cold homes. Specifically these are:

- a. people with cardiovascular conditions
- b. people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- c. people with mental health conditions
- d. people with disabilities
- e. older people (65 and older)
- f. young children (under 5)
- g. pregnant women
- h. people with addictions
- i. people who have attended hospital due to a fall
- j. Terminal illness
- k. suppressed immune system e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV (inclusion as recommended by Health Booster Fund projects)

Any referral or enquiry received that does not meet the above requirements will be considered on a case by case basis

### **2(c) Criteria for Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) “in-fill” projects**

To increase the economies of scale of SWI projects, solid wall homes (i.e. no cavity wall) which are not ‘fuel poor’, will be eligible for Flexible ECO funding, where they are co-located with a minimum percentage of households assessed to be Fuel Poor (FP) or LIVC.

The criteria for this will be:

- Semi-detached houses/bungalows and buildings with 2 premises – at least 50% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Same terrace – at least 66% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Same building – at least 66% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Adjacent properties - at least 66% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations>. NICE guidelines do not apply in Scotland. More information on any guidelines which apply to the devolved administrations will be included in the final version of the guidance).

### 3) Acting on behalf of another local authority

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Authorised Signatory: Name/Position</b>	<b>Signature</b>
Elmbridge Borough Council	Sarah Selvanathan Strategic Director	[redacted]
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council	Lee Duffy Acting Director Finances & Resources	[redacted]
Guildford Borough Council	Philip O'Dwyer Director of Community Services	[redacted]
Mole Valley District Council	Yvonne Rees Chief Executive	[redacted]
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council	Tom Kealey Head of Health & Wellbeing	[redacted]
Spelthorne Borough Council	Roberto Tambini Chief Executive	[redacted]
Surrey Heath Borough Council	Tim Pashen Exec Head of Community Services	[redacted]
Tandridge District Council	Jayne Godden Miller Chief Housing Officer	[redacted]
Waverley Borough Council	Damian Roberts Strategic Director	[redacted]
Woking Borough Council	Geoff McManus Assistant Director, Place	[redacted]

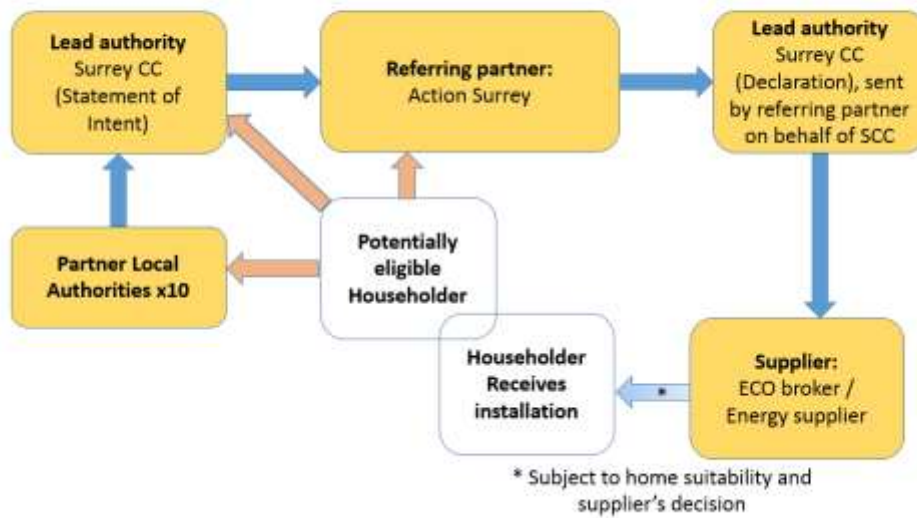
### 4) Governance

The SOI will be signed on behalf of Surrey County Council by the Strategic Director for Adult Social Care and Public Health. Surrey County Council is acting on behalf of the ten Surrey local authorities listed above.

Declarations will be signed on behalf of Surrey County Council by Bronwen Chinien, Principal Environment and Sustainability Officer, Surrey County Council.

An organisation chart for the parties involved in the process of identifying eligible households is as below (Figure 3):

Figure 3: Organisation flowchart



## 5) Marketing & Referrals

The county council will ensure appropriate referral processes are in place and will work with relevant partners to identify potentially eligible people in the most effective way, while maintaining the protection of personal data. This will include initial identification of eligible households using the BRE Housing Stock Assessment for Surrey for those living in 'fuel poverty' and with 'high costs'. We will also work with Adult Social Care, to determine those that maybe vulnerable to living in a cold home, suffering from a qualifying medical condition. All potential eligible households will be contacted and referred to Action Surrey.

## 6) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

The referring agency will capture and store all relevant information during the initial enquiry to determine the correct course of action for each household.

The referring agency will inform residents that they may be required to provide evidence of income and medical/health conditions and other information such as any relevant health condition, at a later date in order to deter fraudulent claims.

Auditing of the eligibility of claimants will be assessed by a random sample of households on a post-installation basis. The county council will be responsible for ensuring a sufficient sample is achieved, working in partnership to share data with Boroughs and Districts to obtain information.

The referring agency will provide key information, including the number of referrals made and the number of funded installations delivered.

**7) Signature**

**Name:** Helen Atkinson

**Position:** Strategic Director for Adult Social Care & Public Health, Surrey County Council

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HA', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Date:** 18 August 2017