



## Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	<b>Fuel Poverty Action Plan</b>
Author (including organisation):	<b>Aisha Stewart – BCC Energy Service</b>
Date of Board meeting:	<b>19/08/2020</b>
Purpose:	Information and Discussion

- Paper to be no more than two pages long
- Draft papers are reviewed by the Public Health team
- Final papers will be published on the [public website](#)
- Board correspondence: [HWB@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:HWB@bristol.gov.uk)

### 1. Executive Summary

The No Cold Homes Steering Group (a collective of organisations across Bristol that are committed to taking action to tackle fuel poverty in the city) has developed a Fuel Poverty Action Plan for the city. The aim is to provide a strategic roadmap for actions that support and lift households out of fuel poverty.

A revised draft of the full action plan is being shared to obtain input/feedback and discuss whether the current situation with COVID-19 has presented any opportunities to engage with those in fuel poverty and those with health conditions that could be worsened by living in a cold property.

### 2. Purpose of the Paper

We are presenting an up-to-date version of the draft Fuel Poverty Action Plan in hope of seeking final input/feedback prior to final signoff in October. Since last presenting to the Health and Wellbeing Board in August 2019, we have been engaging with the Bristol Homes & Community Board, Environmental Sustainability Board and various community organisations to ensure that the actions in the plan are represented of the current work and upcoming projects happening across the city that support people in fuel poverty. With COVID-19 having impacts on employment and household finances, we aim to discuss if there are any new opportunities to engage with the fuel poor households through health sector communication channels.

### 3. Background and evidence base

In December 2018, the JSNA chapter on [Fuel Poverty](#) was published which discussed the state of fuel poverty in the city, highlighted what services already exist to support those in fuel poverty, while mentioning what more can be done to tackle it. Recent data from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy suggests that 9.8% of households in Bristol are fuel poor, which is an estimated 19,572 households across the city.

The JSNA chapter highlights how living in a cold home can worsen the health of those with any existing health conditions and have an impact on children who are at greater risk of respiratory problems and lower educational attainment. Additionally, the chapter discusses the association between cold homes and mental health problems, as the physical discomfort of being in a cold home and financial worries can have an impact on one's mental wellbeing.

Additionally, the NICE guideline for excess winter deaths [NG6] provides recommendations for actions that can be taken to better support those living in cold homes. For each of the recommendations suggested, [evidence and expert papers](#) are linked to support the need for the suggested recommendation.

Furthermore, the One City Plan includes targets related to tackling fuel poverty and we aim to utilise the One City approach to bring together organisations across the city to work towards achieving the targets.

## **4. Community engagement**

As part of the development of the Fuel Poverty Action Plan, we held an event in November 2019 to bring together various community organisations, service providers and council departments for a workshop that supported the development of the actions incorporated in the action plan. The No Cold Homes Group will continue to work with and alongside community groups to support those in fuel poverty.

## **5. Recommendations**

Our recommendations to the Board are:

- Determine linkages with existing/upcoming services in your work to the objectives of the action plan
- Identify communication channels to engage with fuel poor households for energy efficiency measures or referrals for support/advice agencies
- Review action plan

## **6. City Benefits**

The development of the Fuel Poverty Action Plan aims to provide a strategic approach for engaging with and supporting the residents of Bristol in fuel poverty. The various actions incorporated in the plan includes the improvement of the energy efficiency of homes across the city, ensuring affordable heating options and support/advice to tackle issues with debt and other financial difficulties.

The benefits to taking action as outlined in the action plan include:

- Projects for improving housing stock to a minimum energy performance certificate rating
- Seeking funding opportunities for advice/support agencies
- Strengthen relationships with frontline healthcare workers to identify fuel poverty triggers

## **7. Financial and Legal Implications**

N/A

## **8. Appendices**

Attached is the most up-to-date version of the Fuel Poverty Action Plan.