

Reducing fuel poverty and improving winter warmth

Why is this issue important for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly?

Whole community

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are in top 3 local government areas for homes without central heating¹



36,000 households | **83,000 people** experience poor health due to a lack of warmth²

Personal costs

Around **300** more people die each winter compared to the summer months⁶

£13m Annual local NHS costs
Cost to England is £1.3bn⁷

Households affected by fuel poverty in Cornwall and in Isles of Scilly

Inequalities

The poorest and those who have existing health problems particularly affected

16% more people died in the winter months compared with the non-winter months³

Each winter death is preceded by an average of eight emergency admissions, 30 social care and secondary care visits and GP appointments⁴

“Fuel poverty is avoidable and it contributes to social and health inequalities”
Marmot Review⁵

Our aim

To reduce Excess Winter Deaths by one third by 2020, to below 200 a year⁸

Winter Wellness 2014/15- Over 30 partners worked together to deliver common outcomes of reducing fuel poverty, improving health and progress to work

What is being done locally to address this issue?

What people have said...

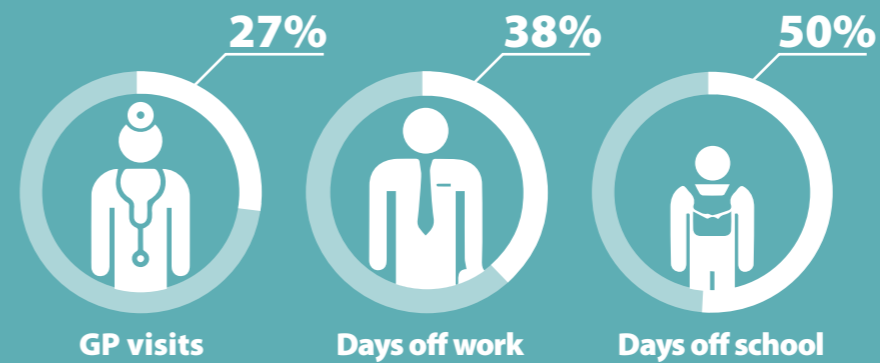
“A huge difference mentally and physically, I am able to function and keep my independence and continue giving back to the community with my volunteer services”

“We have a problem with damp in the property and being so cold had made it worse and aggravated my daughter’s asthma”

“My wife is paraplegic and it was very difficult with no hot water or heating. After help we were very grateful as my wife bathes every day as I do”

“I can now think, because you freed up my money as it was all going on coal. I have completed my CV and am going to apply for jobs. I couldn’t face this when I was so cold. I lived in my fleece and pyjamas”

A study showed that energy efficiency interventions in lower income communities reduced⁹



Less demand on acute, secondary, social care, voluntary and the community sector

This improves mental wellbeing, reduces social isolation and anxiety caused by bills

This removes barriers to work; supports return to work; enables a better income, and improves resilience to future winters

Local advice and support

Community Energy Plus Freephone advice line **0800 954 1956**
Winter Wellbeing Helpline **0800 954 1956** and www.cornwall.gov.uk/winterwellbeing
Public Health **01872 327977**

Evidence

The Marmot Review¹⁰, Cold Weather Plan¹¹, Fuel Poverty Strategy and BRE Health Impacts of Cold Dwellings¹² all document the impact of cold homes and fuel poverty on housing, health and wellbeing

Since 2011 Winter Wellness multi agency partnership achievements:

4,500 households helped (10,000 people)
675 hospital admissions prevented
900 households helped through Winter Wellness Emergency Fund
283 households remain in work and progress towards work

Why invest?

Social Return on Investment saves **£3.39** for every **£1** invested¹³

Return on Investment saves NHS **£2.09** for every **£1** invested¹⁴

Estimated **75** hospital admissions avoided last winter, saving NHS **£48,600**¹⁴

Partnerships

Winter Wellness Partnership includes Cornwall Council, VCS, housing associations, Cornwall Community Foundation, Inclusion Cornwall, Council of the Isles of Scilly and the NHS

Notes 1. ONS (2011), 2011 Census: KS403EW Rooms, bedrooms and central heating, local authorities in England and Wales 2. DECC (2015) 2013 sub-regional fuel poverty data: low income high costs indicator, 2015 3. ONS (2014), Excess Winter Mortality, 3year average 4. DH (2009) South East Regional Public Health Group Fact Sheet, HEALTH AND WINTER WARMTH, Reducing Health Inequalities, 2009 5. The Marmot Review Team (2011) The Health Impacts of Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty, 2011 6. PHE (2015) Cornwall Health Profile 2015 7. Energy Bill Revolution website (2015) Health, 2015 8. PHOF Fuel Poverty indicator 1.17 and PHOF Excess Winter Deaths indicators 4.15

Notes 9. Howden-Chapman et al (2007) 'Effect of insulating existing houses on health inequality: cluster randomised study in the community' BMJ 2007; 334:460 10. The Marmot Review Team (2011) The Health Impacts of Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty, 2011 11. PHE (2015) The Cold Weather Plan for England Protecting health and reducing harm from cold weather, 2015 12. bre website (2015) Housing Health Cost Calculator, 2015 13. Cornwall Council analysis done in 2013 using Cabinet Office methodology developed with the SROI network: Guide to Social return on investment (2012) 14. Based upon an analysis by Cornwall Council Public Health done in 2015 using the Hospital Admission Winter Wellbeing Model
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