

# **Aylesbury Vale District Council**

## **Local Authority Flexible Eligibility**



### **Statement of Intent**

Date of publication: .....May 2017

#### **1) Introduction**

Aylesbury Vale District Council is committed to supporting those in fuel poverty. Working with the National Energy Foundation, all the other Buckinghamshire Councils and other local organisations such as AgeUK, Prevention Matters and the Fire Service, we have formed an Affordable Warmth Network. The network provides a cross-referral partnership between this range of organisations working with vulnerable people, and specifically aims to assist those residents at risk of fuel poverty, or impaired health as a result of living in a cold and/or damp home. Aylesbury Vale District Council see Flexible Eligibility as a suitable fit with the existing Network's aims and is happy to support its use to provide measures to residents in the district.

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

Aylesbury Vale District Council believes that certain sectors of society are particularly susceptible to the cold. These people may be on low incomes, yet not sufficiently low as to be eligible for benefits. Previous ECO allocations have overlooked these residents and we are delighted to be able to provide support for them under Flexible Eligibility.

Eligible households will be those on a low income, as defined below, and who meet a second eligibility criteria.

##### **First Eligibility Criteria**

Low income will be assessed against the values in the table below. Please note that these values may change from time to time.

Household composition	Gross Annual household income	Monthly household income Equivalent
<b>1 adult</b>	£16,500	£1,375
and 1 child	£21,750	£1,813
and 2 children	£27,000	£2,250
and three children	£32,250	£2,688
and four or more children	£37,500	£3,125
<b>2 adults</b>	£24,750	£2,063
and 1 child	£30,000	£2,500
and 2 children	£35,250	£2,938
and three children	£40,500	£3,375
and four or more children	£45,750	£3,813

### Second eligibility criteria

Health can be a major factor in how much heat is required in a property. Therefore health criteria will be important in assessing flexible eligibility.

A household with a full-time resident who has one of the following long term and chronic health conditions

- Cardiovascular disease
- Respiratory disease
- Cancer (any)
- Diabetes
- A substantial and permanent disability and is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance or Personal Independence Payment

Age can also be a factor in how much heat is required to achieve affordable warmth, with older residents being particularly adversely affected.

A household with a full time resident who is

- an adult aged 60 or over

Aylesbury Vale District Council are also aware that some homes have characteristics which mean that they inevitably have high energy consumption. Very inefficient properties which have not already been upgraded are, therefore, likely to be occupied by people on low incomes who also have high costs.

A household where an EPC has been completed and

- the property has an EPC banding of F or G.

As part of the Affordable Warmth Network, Aylesbury Vale District Council residents may be eligible for additional grants or support from time to time. A final eligibility criteria is therefore

Any household, where residents are on a low income and where a full time resident is also

- confirmed as eligible via the Affordable Warmth Helpline 0800 107 0044

Aylesbury Vale District Council would be delighted to support the installation of solid wall insulation in the region. We will therefore agree to complete declarations for those households not in fuel poverty who fulfil the in-fill criteria as defined by BEIS.

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

Aylesbury Vale District Council will not issue declarations on behalf of another local authority.

### 4) Governance

Aylesbury Vale District Council will work with the National Energy Foundation and our partners in the Affordable Warmth Network (AWN) to promote energy efficiency advice and the installation of energy efficiency measures to support those in fuel poverty in the region. The Affordable Warmth Network will assess eligibility against the above low income high cost criteria and will complete relevant declarations on our behalf.

Neil Green at Aylesbury Vale District Council, will sign off declarations and will audit 3% of applications to ensure compliance with these criteria.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Named individual</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<b>CEO Aylesbury Vale District Council</b>	<b>Andrew Grant</b>	<b>Signatory for SOI</b>
<b>Principal Environmental Health Officer Aylesbury Vale District Council</b>	<b>Neil Green</b>	<b>Checking eligibility. Signing LA declarations. Auditing 3% applications.</b>
<b>AWN project oversight National Energy Foundation</b>	<b>Gabby Mallett</b>	<b>Managing referral process. Assessing eligibility and amending criteria as necessary.</b>

<b>AWN project manager National Energy Foundation</b>	<b>Matt Neal</b>	<b>Collating information, confirming eligibility, completing basic declaration forms.</b>
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## **5) Referrals**

Any Aylesbury Vale District Council resident who believes that they may be eligible for help under flexible eligibility should contact the Affordable Warmth Network (AWN) on 0800 107 0044. The AWN will check your eligibility status and will ask for relevant supporting documentation. They will also be able to refer you to a relevant assessor or installer to take the process further.

However, being eligible is not a guarantee that measures will be installed. A final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from energy saving improvements under this strand of ECO will be made by the obligated suppliers or their agents/contractors.

Inclusion in a Declaration issued by us will not guarantee installation of measures.

## **6) Evidence, monitoring and reporting**

The Affordable Warmth Network will confirm eligibility on our behalf.

- a) Eligible residents will need to confirm both their income and their secondary eligibility criteria. Written proof of each will be required.
- b) National Energy Foundation will report on a quarterly basis to Aylesbury Vale District Council on which measures have been installed and their value. Should a customer contribution be required this will also be reported.
- c) Aylesbury Vale District Council will audit 3% of applications on a quarterly basis to help prevent and detect fraud.

Please note that these reporting and monitoring procedures may be updated from time to time as a process of continual improvement.

## **7) Data Protection**

Aylesbury Vale District Council is committed to working within the bounds of the Data Protection Act 1998. This act requires the Council to respect principles of fair

processing when handling personal information. The Act also guarantees individuals certain rights in relation to the processing of their data, including the right of access to personal records processed by the council.

Personal and sensitive data will be held by the National Energy Foundation on a secure database.

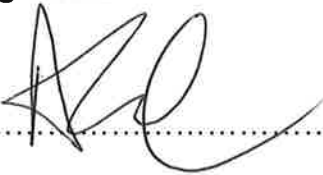
All enquirers will be asked to confirm their consent to that data being processed in order to seek an installation of a qualifying ECO measure at their property.

Anonymised data will also be used for monitoring purposes.

Personal and sensitive data which confirms eligibility may also be passed back to Aylesbury Vale District Council to prove eligibility status.

Both the National Energy Foundation and the Councils' Data Protection Policy Statements are available on request.

**8) Signature**



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Date: <sup>th</sup> 26 May 2017

Andrew Grant

Chief Executive Officer

Aylesbury Vale District Council District Council

