

Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription Project

Past, Present and the Future

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Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription

Background and Context

Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription aligns Housing and Health agendas - promoting housing authorities' contribution towards addressing the wider determinants of health.

Key stakeholders

- 7 Nottinghamshire district/boroughs councils
- Nottinghamshire County Public Health
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan
- Better Care Fund Programme Board

Project Overview

- Local authorities in Nottinghamshire are working together, with health partners, to deliver an innovative way for the health service to 'prescribe' warm and healthy housing across the area.
- GP Practices, frontline health workers, LA Officers and trusted partners have been identified in each district/borough council and are identifying 'high risk' patients with long term health conditions made worse by cold living conditions, particularly COPD and other respiratory diseases and those at risk of heart attack, stroke and falls.
- Home visits are being undertaken to assess the energy efficiency of the home and whether the patient can afford to keep the house at a healthy temperature. A range of actions are then taken to achieve affordable warmth on behalf of the householder, including commissioning heating and insulation works and income maximisation (benefits checks and fuel switching).
- Positive impacts on patients' health and wellbeing are anticipated, leading to cost savings to the NHS particularly around anticipated reductions in emergency admissions, readmissions and visits to A&E for these patients.

Characteristics Target Patient Group

- have cold-sensitive long term conditions
- live in a cold home (in fuel poverty)
- high risk; on unplanned admissions register
- are owner occupiers or live in private rented accommodation
- reside within Nottinghamshire

Households in fuel poverty are likely to live in a cold home.

Around 12% of households in Nottinghamshire are in fuel poverty (East Midlands average is 10.4%); this could be twice as high in deprived areas. Focusing resources on this target group will have the most impact and will maximise NHS cost savings.

Assistance Provided

Home improvements

- boiler repairs or replacement
- new heating controls
- insulation
- draft proofing

Make heating affordable

- reducing heating costs with tariff switching
- increasing income using benefits checks
- how to use heating system efficiently – setting controls and timers
- Importance of keeping warm

Cold worsens existing health conditions

- Increased risk to those with respiratory, circulatory and mobility conditions
- Heat rooms to healthy temperature (18 – 21oC)
- Keep warm, healthy and safe

Pilot Year 2016-17

The pilot year was a joint venture between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities and was funded through NEA's Health Through Warmth initiative.

- **100** clients contacted the service and received a range of affordable warmth interventions - **40** of these vulnerable households received a free central heating system or replacement boiler
- **£101,583** NEA funding brought in to the programme to fund heating measures in 34 homes; new heating systems in 6 additional homes was funded by LA's

Strategic Benefits to Health

- Supporting **CCG** targets to reduce emergency admissions, re-admissions, visits to A&E and GP appointments.
- Reducing **health inequalities** by targeted initiatives which help patients to continue to live safely and independently at home.
- Demonstrates that a Practice is “being responsive to people’s needs” as recommended by the **Care Quality Commission**, Inspection Regulation Compliance Section, Regulation 9
- **NICE Guideline** on ‘Excess Winter Deaths and Morbidity’: identify people at risk of ill health from living in a cold home and provide tailored solutions via a health and housing referral service.
- Level 0 of the **Public Health England** ‘Cold Weather Plan’ to provide all year round, preventative work to ensure that people who are vulnerable to the cold don’t get caught out in winter.
- ‘Cutting the Cost of Keeping Warm’ **Fuel Poverty Strategy** for England (2015), Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board

The case for more effective integration and joint working between health, social care and housing is clear. The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy seeks to address the need for “sufficient and suitable housing, including housing related support, particularly for vulnerable people”.

Specifically, the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022, suggests a number of key partnership actions relating to effective and integrated working across health, social care and housing. These include:

- Working with Districts to maximise homes which are accessible
- Promoting a campaign around fuel switching to reduce fuel poverty
- **Promoting work on Warm Homes on Prescription to health partners and offering support in linking in with frontline health staff and NHS staff who undertake home visits**
- Supporting work to improve housing standards in the Private Rented Sector
- Encouraging and supporting effective integrated working across health; social care and housing, including supporting a memorandum of understanding across the three sectors to make a commitment to more integrated working
- Supporting the exploration of opportunities to integrate housing support services to provide a more integrated offer for Nottinghamshire residents

Better Care Fund (BCF)

The BCF provides opportunities for greater integrated working to reduce the pressure on acute services and improve outcomes for individuals by promoting independence.

The Health and Housing Implementation Group supports the Health and Wellbeing Board in identifying and recommending the appropriate utilisation of this funding in order to improve outcomes for individuals across Nottinghamshire.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan recognises the important role of housing by being the only STP in the country to include a specific chapter covering housing and the environment. This approach has been widely endorsed nationally by organisations such as The Kings Fund.

The specific themes in the Housing and Environment chapter relating to housing are:

- The development of a common hospital discharge scheme across the STP footprint that supports residents with housing needs to access housing and housing support in a safe and timely manner.
- Building on the Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription scheme by targeting vulnerable individuals through providing home energy assessments, advice, information and support

Current Funding

£55k Public Health grant to cover the Programme Manager costs until March 2019

£640k capital funding secured via Nottinghamshire district/borough council's Better Care Fund Allocation for year 2017-18 to assist **250** residents. It is anticipated that similar amount will be available in 2018-19

Exploring the opportunities to blend Energy Company Obligation funding via Flexible Eligibility – all 7 Nottinghamshire LA's are in the process of publishing their Statement of Intent

The 7 Nottinghamshire district/borough councils, supported by Nottingham Energy Partnership and AGE UK (Nottingham), are providing the operational expertise and resources required to deliver the project.

Long Term Sustainability

- Uncertainty around the Better Care Fund beyond 2019.
- What will ECO look like after the transition period and will it include Flexible Eligibility?
- Maintaining relationships in a fluctuating environment
- Further support is needed to evaluate the outcomes of project by Public Health.

- Any questions?

Contacts

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