Warmer, Healthier Homes; Liverpool’s Healthy Homes Programme

Ian Watson, Programme Co-ordinator
Liverpool Healthy Homes
Liverpool Life Expectancy

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Legend:
- **Northern Line**
- **Bus Route 12**
- **City Line**
Fuel Poverty & housing

- Fuel poverty – >10% income on fuel to maintain adequate level of warmth

Housing

148,000 private sector properties:
- 7.5% lack central heating
- 44,100 households (28.2%) in fuel poverty
- 19,400 (13%) present H&S risk - highest risks relate to Excess Cold, Falls, Electrical Safety and Fire.
- 19,000 (13%) homes fail the energy efficiency requirements of the DHS
- Private-rented sector accounts for highest rates of hazardous housing (18.7%) & highest concentration of poorest thermal efficiency
Fuel Poverty, housing & health

Health

- Rate of excess winter deaths – 276 per year (NHS health profile 2012)
- For each winter death, there are 8 emergency admissions
- Accidents in the home cause an estimated 70 deaths and 4,000 hospital admissions per year in Liverpool.

Poor housing conditions are implicated in **500 deaths** and around **5,000 illnesses** requiring medical attention each year in Liverpool. *(from national BRE estimates)*

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Poor quality housing affects physical, social and emotional wellbeing and causes illness and death through **excess cold**, increased infection, asthma and other respiratory illnesses
“Reducing health inequalities caused by poor quality housing conditions, and improving access to health & wellbeing related services in Liverpool”
Healthy Homes Programme - objectives

Phase 1

- Industrial scale to make a real population difference
- Identify 25,000 properties in priority neighbourhoods
- Assess the health and housing needs of each occupant
- Engage residents into health and well-being related services
- Carry out full health and safety inspection in worst 4,400 properties and secure necessary improvements
- Home Safety promotion (particularly under 11’s and over 65’s)

Through the removal of hazard exposure, the programme is designed to **reduce premature deaths by up to 100** when fully implemented, and **reduce GP consultations and hospital admissions by over 1000 cases**.
Healthy Homes Programme

Household income

Referrals to agencies:

- 919 to income maximisation (plus 148 for over 60s)
- 1,056 for jobs and careers advice
- 798 for smoking cessation
- 916 for fuel poverty assistance

Fuel price

Advice on energy tariffs, assistance with fuel debt

Example:
67 year old male, in poor health in receipt of benefits. Had never claimed state retirement pension. Received £13,500 lump sum, and £50 per week.
Healthy Home Programme

Fuel consumption

- Excess cold most common housing hazard
- **927** serious cold hazards removed relying on enforcement action where necessary (401 damp and mould)
- **1,405** referrals for energy efficiency
- Ensuring adequate and efficient heating and insulation
Healthy Homes on Prescription

- 55 practices taken up GP clinical system to identify ‘vulnerable’ patients
- GP ‘alerted’ and prompted to ask vulnerable patient about housing conditions during consultation
- Simple referral made from clinical system to Healthy Homes
- Healthy Homes visit and provide feedback

Health Centres

Regularly visit 26 centres to provide Healthy Homes surgeries
Reaching Out

Targeting areas for insulation grants using data on:
- Concentrations of elderly people
- Poverty
- Poor health
- Lack of jobs
- Lack of roof insulation
- Older homes

Letters are sent to every household in targeted areas with information on:
- Energy efficiency grants
- Free gas safety checks
- Fuel debt advice and bill payment problems
Promotion

Winter Survival 11/12

- 51 events - 2,405 elderly and vulnerable adults
- 5,000 chair based exercise DVDs distributed to elderly residents
- 71,000 Winter Warmth leaflets with flu letters
- 805 bags of rock salt distributed to elderly and vulnerable residents
- 2 week radio campaign and microsite
Liverpool Council took action against a landlord who had installed a heating system which was expensive to operate, contending that it was unaffordable & therefore unacceptable on grounds of health and safety.

Initial court ruled that affordability of system not relevant to health and safety.

This was appealed by the Council, and the matter was raised in the Houses of Parliament.

A higher court agreed that the running costs of a heating system are a relevant factor.
Value for Money?

BRE evaluation of first year’s operation shows:

- **861** HHSRS inspections removing **725** Cat1 hazards
- Total project cost **£1.07M** (Inspection cost £300K)

- On-going annual NHS savings **£440K** (£4.4M over 10 years)
  - Excess cold hazard alone £341,000 (£3.41M over 10 years)

- Wider Society annual savings **£1.1M** (£11M over 10 years)
  - Excess cold hazard alone £852,000 (£8.52M over 10 years)

**Total anticipated savings by HHP:**

**£55 Million** (£42M from excess cold)

(Building Research Establishment Jan 2011)
Evaluation

Ongoing, but:

- Reduction in health deprivation since 2007
- 57% reduction in excess winter deaths
- £4.3 million of property improvements

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<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>137 (prov)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
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Housing Strategy

Co-ordination of a successful Warm Homes Healthy People Programme utilising DoH funding:
- free central heating and heating repairs for vulnerable home owners
- free loft and cavity wall insulation
- hardship fund to assist vulnerable residents
- tackle social isolation

Renewables and Energy Efficiency in Community Housing (REECH) and Viridis projects retrofitting homes in Merseyside with energy saving technology e.g. external cladding to alleviate fuel poverty

Big Switch - Collective switching to reduce people’s energy bills

Registered Providers – CERT, CESP, stock improvements & Green Deal
Contact details:

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www.liverpool.gov.uk/healthyhomes