

## Energy Company Obligation (ECO): Help to Heat

### Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

#### Stevenage Borough Council (3/2/2022) VERSION 4

##### 1) Introduction

Stevenage Borough Council is committed to supporting residents vulnerable to fuel poverty and cold homes, working with YES Energy Solutions (YES) to access energy obligation funding to support local households in or near fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold to receive energy efficiency interventions that improve the wellbeing outcomes and fuel efficiency of their homes.

As set out in the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) (Amendment) Order 2017 (Art 16 (A) 3(a)) this Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and the Order 2018: Help to Heat Local Authority Flexible Eligibility ('ECO flex') criteria is only applicable and relevant to private tenure households (i.e. Private rented sector and owner occupier sector). Social housing is excluded from flexible eligibility.

The Stevenage Borough Council partnership with YES Energy Solutions contributes towards the following Local Authority priorities:

a) The **Stevenage Borough Council** corporate plan *Future Town Future Council* priorities:

- Making your money count
- A clean, green safe and thriving town

b) The **Hertfordshire County Council** Corporate Plan (2019-2025) priorities:

- Opportunity to live in thriving places - *A cleaner, greener and more environmentally sustainable county*
- Opportunity to enjoy healthy and safe lives - *For everyone to have the opportunity to live healthy lives for as long as possible and to live safely in their communities.*

c) The Hertfordshire Public Health Service Strategy (2017-21) priorities:

- Starting and developing well, *healthier lives for 0-25 years*
- Keeping Well, *supporting longer lives, more disease-free years and self-management of long-term conditions*
- Working to reduce health inequalities: *Reducing inequalities in health outcomes and life expectancy between most and least affluent*

Stevenage Borough Council wishes to utilise ECO Flex to its fullest to help reach a wide number of residents.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on:

- i) identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat;
- ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation; and
- iii) Whether the supplier has achieved their targets or requires further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

## 2) How the Local Authority intends to identify eligible households

To be eligible the applicant must meet criteria 1 AND either criteria a) OR b) in table 1 below.

**Table 1: Criteria for identifying households living in fuel poverty OR low income and vulnerable to cold**

Eligibility	Criteria
1. Low Income	Gross household disposable income (after rent or mortgage has been paid) £20,000 or less
AND either	
a) High energy costs	Property with at least one of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100mm or less loft insulation</li> <li>• Unfilled cavity walls</li> <li>• Un-insulated non cavity walls</li> <li>• No working central heating</li> </ul> or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPC rating of D or below</li> </ul>
OR	
b) At least one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) health condition made worse by the cold</li> <li>ii) vulnerable to the cold</li> <li>iii) a home owner or those on a private tenancy agreement (or member of the household) is in receipt of long term health or disability benefit</li> </ul>	Resident or household member either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) health condition made worse by the cold as defined in table 2 below or</li> <li>ii) vulnerable to the cold as defined by table 2 below</li> <li>iii) the following eligible benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carer's Allowance</li> <li>A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance, Disabled Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 2: Eligible health conditions and those vulnerable to the cold**

<b>a) Health conditions made worse by the cold</b>	<b>b) Vulnerable to the cold</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. people with cardiovascular conditions</li> <li>ii. people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)</li> <li>iii. people with mental health conditions</li> <li>iv. people with disabilities</li> <li>v. people who are terminally ill</li> <li>vi. people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)</li> <li>vii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)</li> <li>viii. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Aged over 65, particularly those over 75</li> <li>ii. Children under 5 or pregnant women</li> <li>iii. People with substance addictions</li> <li>iv. People who have attended hospital due to a fall in the last year</li> <li>v. People diagnosed with dementia</li> <li>vi. Recent immigrants or asylum seekers</li> </ul>

Source: Adapted from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Statement and guidance 2015 on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold

### 3) Governance

YES Energy Solutions will make the necessary checks to confirm if the client is potentially eligible for ECO Flex and request relevant supporting information. Once provided YES Energy Solutions will liaise with the Stevenage Borough Council Environmental Health and Licensing Team to obtain a signed 'Local Authority Declaration' confirming eligibility.

#### Responsible officer

The officer below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Name: Rachel Wells

Job title: Residential and Animal Control Manager – Environmental Health

Telephone: 07702 916893

Email: Rachel.wells@stevenage.gov.uk

### 4) Referrals

We would expect referrals to be identified through Stevenage Borough Council Environmental Health and Licensing and the Customer Contact Centre. Self referrals

would be expected to meet the agreed quality criteria and should contact YES Energy Solutions for further information.

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

YES Energy Solutions will provide the central administration and management of Energy Company Obligation flexible eligibility in Stevenage. The scheme reports on ECO Flex activity including SOI qualifying reason, household information. This information is emailed monthly to the Environmental Health and Licensing team.

### **6) Signature**

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF  
STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice Clay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maurice" and the last name "Clay" clearly distinguishable.

Signature

Maurice Clay

Senior Environmental Health & Licensing  
Manager

7 February 2022.