

Denbighshire County Council Flexible Eligibility

Statement of Intent

This statement sets out Denbighshire County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO – October 2018 to March 2020. It aims to support households living in Denbighshire who are most likely to experience fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

1. What is flexible eligibility - Local Authorities working with Energy suppliers obligated under Energy Company Obligation (ECO) have the opportunity to extend eligibility criteria for energy efficiency measures to households not covered by existing schemes of support such as Nest or Arbed.

ECO funding is provided directly from the energy supplier to the household who is eligible under the criteria. Denbighshire County Council do not fund any measures but have developed the eligibility criteria to assist the greatest number of fuel poor homes in Denbighshire.

2. Identifying eligible households – This funding is only available for private owner occupiers and private rented tenants. Qualification of flexible eligibility in Denbighshire will be determined by the criteria listed below and will require a signed declaration by the property owner.

Delivering improvement measures - inclusion in a Declaration made by the local authority to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on

- i) Survey carried out by supplier's agents/contractors and installation costs calculated,
- ii) The energy savings that can be achieved for a property,
- iii) Whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets

Final decision - The decision on whether a household receives a measure under flexible eligibility or other ECO funding streams will be made by the energy suppliers or their agents/contractors. Qualification in the statement of intent or the Declaration by Denbighshire County Council will not guarantee installation of any measures, as the final decision will lie with the supplier.

Question 1 Qualifying Criteria

To qualify the household must fully satisfy criteria i) or ii):

- i) the property must have a rating of **F or G on an EPC** or have a score of **greater than or equal to 15 points** in Table 1 below;

or

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- ii) the property must have a rating of an E on an EPC or have a score of **greater than or equal to 10 and a maximum of 14 points** in Table 1 below

and a member of the household is **vulnerable** or **low income** and at greater risk due to living in a cold property. Vulnerability/low income is ascertained by answering yes to one or more of the situations/conditions in Question 2.

Table 1 – Property Condition				
Property Details	Type	Points	Tick box	Score
Number of Bedrooms	1	1		
	2	2		
	3+	3		
Number of people living in the property	1	1		
	2	2		
	3+	3		
How much Loft Insulation is present	None	5		
	Up to 150mm	3		
	250mm and above	1		
What is the Wall Type	System built	5		
	Solid stone/brick	3		
	Cavity construction	1		
How much Wall insulation is present	External	1		
	Internal	1		
	Cavity	2		
	None	5		
What Heating fuel is used within the property	Mains gas	1		
	Oil	2		
	LPG	3		
	Electric	5		
	Solid fuel	5		
Is there a Central Heating system within the property and what age is this	Less than 10 years old	1		
	Over ten years old	3		
	Broken system	5		
	No system	5		
			Total	

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Question 2 – Client Vulnerability

It is necessary to demonstrate that the householders are at a greater risk to the effects of living in a cold home. Denbighshire County Council adopt the following approach.

The NICE guideline 'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' states that a wide range of people are at greater risk to the cold. This is either because of a medical condition, such as heart disease; a disability that, for instance, stops people moving around to keep warm, or makes them more likely to develop chest infections, or personal circumstances, such as being unable to afford to keep warm enough.

Denbighshire County Council will target households containing people with the following, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

A member of the household is/has

- i. Aged over 60 (proof of age necessary)
- ii. Children in education or a pregnant mother
- iii. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- iv. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- v. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- vi. Substance misusers
- vii. Dementia
- viii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- ix. Cancer
- x. Limited mobility
- xi. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xii. Severe learning disabilities
- xiii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

Signed declaration by doctor or health practitioner to confirm any health related issues iii - xiii.

Or (low income)

The household is located within the 10% most deprived LSOA's from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation Income domain. These LSOA's are the following (WIMD 2014):

LSOA Code	LSOA Name (Eng)
W01000240	Rhyl West 2
W01000239	Rhyl West 1
W01000237	Rhyl South West 2
W01000241	Rhyl West 3

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W01000228	Rhyl East 3
W01000236	Rhyl South West 1
W01000198	Denbigh Upper/Henllan 1
W01000234	Rhyl South East 4

3. Governance

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

- i) Martyn Smith Job title: Energy Conservation Project Officer; and/or
- ii) Chris Evans Job title: Principal Built and Conservation Surveyor

4. Referrals

Denbighshire County Council will not manage referrals directly. All referrals are to be made through North Wales Energy Advice Centre: 0800 954 0658 steve@nweeac.org.uk.

North Wales Energy Advice Centre will check the referral meets the eligibility on behalf of the council. It will then be forwarded to DCC for the declaration to be issued.

5. Monitoring

The number of households that are contacted and eligible for ECO Flexible Eligibility together with the number of ECO Flexible Eligibility funded measures installed and the number of homes improved will be recorded by Denbighshire County Council.

Signature

Signed by:



Corporate Director, Economy and Public Realm,
 Denbighshire County council

Date: 09/10/18