



a place to call home: **Warmer Homes**

Supporting Wakefield residents to save energy and stay warm

**Better Homes
Wakefield**

wakefieldcouncil
working for you

Over the past 3 years the Council's Energy and Homeowner Support Team have secured over £1.5 million of external funding.

This has helped us to support over 400 households across the district with what are often life changing home energy efficiency improvements.

The majority of these homeowners and private tenants have benefited from heating and insulation installed in their homes at no cost.

These improvements have helped residents to

- Be warmer
- Be healthier
- Save money on their fuel bills

EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION & FUEL POVERTY FUND

Mrs O of Castleford benefited from three of our fully funded schemes in 2018.

As part of a project treating older properties with poor energy efficiency, she had external wall insulation installed as well as a full gas central heating system and loft insulation.

As I am 89 years old and suffer from osteoporosis and osteoarthritis all over as well as other illnesses it is better that I am kept nice and warm which I am now that the work is done on my house walls and I thank you very much. Any visitors always say how very nice and warm my house is, even when there is no heating turned on. Life is much better for me. I thank you once again. Mrs O.

The Warm Homes Fund provides fully funded 'first time' gas central heating

WARM HOMES FUND

When Mr B received a leaflet for our Warm Homes Fund, he thought it must be too good to be true. A year since having a full gas central heating system installed he can't believe the difference it has made to his life.

When we contacted Mr B by post after the work was installed to get some feedback he got back in touch by phone as he felt he couldn't properly express on paper the life changing impact from the new heating system. Prior to the central heating being installed, he spent most of his time in his bedroom watching TV as this was the only room, which he could keep warm but this is a thing of the past.

Since having the heating installed, Mr B has started to sort things in his house, clearing out and making it feel more like a home. Mr B says having a warm home has made him feel much more relaxed and cheerful about the future and he can't believe the difference it has made on his mental health. He has felt 'lifted' by the whole scheme and the knock on effect it has had on his life.

Mr B is now able to heat his whole home for the same cost as it was previously for heating just his bedroom. He said he has never dropped lucky in all his life but the difference the scheme has made to him and his health is unbelievable.

FUEL POVERTY FUND

Owing to Mrs B's health conditions it is important she keeps warm, however, due to her poor heating system she was spending most of her time in bed, in a cold home with no upstairs heating. She also had very high energy bills and no control over her hot water, which meant there was always a risk she could easily scald herself.

After her son contacted us, we visited Mrs B and confirmed that she would be eligible for a full gas central heating system to be installed free of charge through our Fuel Poverty Fund.

After the works had been completed, her son said the whole scheme was 'absolutely wonderful'. He complimented the contractors, saying that they were 'clean and tidy and did a sterling job'. He was over the moon that his Mum is warm now, reducing the worry for him.

Prior to the works being completed, Mrs B would often scald herself on the hot water as she couldn't control the temperature, meaning that when she wanted a bath family members would have to go round to help her to ensure she didn't burn herself. Now Mrs B can safely run herself a bath, without having to worry about scalding herself or her family worrying too. The new system is much more efficient for Mrs B so not only will she have a warmer home but she will also save money on her fuel bills. Mrs B is now able to enjoy her whole home in a safe and warm environment and she no longer spends her days in bed to keep warm.



Essential heating repairs and improvements are provided through the Fuel Poverty Fund

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND

When Ms S's boiler started breaking down in December 2019 she didn't know how she would afford the cost to replace it with a more reliable model. With 2 children in the household, as well as suffering from multiple health conditions it was important to Ms S to have a warm and healthy home.

After having a quote from an energy company to replace the boiler, Ms S knew that she would not be able to afford the cost without any support. Ms S then heard that the Council may be able to help so she gave us a call. Through our recently launched Home Energy Efficiency Fund Ms S was eligible for a grant contribution towards the work being completed. Ms Sykes was over the moon she would be getting some support to reduce the cost making it more manageable for her to afford.

Following the works being completed Ms S can't believe the difference it has made to her and her family. She said that it is an amazing scheme and the installation team were 'absolutely wonderful, a real credit to the company'.

Prior to the works being done Ms S found it stressful trying to get her boiler to work and was finding it difficult to get up on a morning in a cold home. Since the boiler has been replaced she is enjoying waking up to a warm home. Ms S would encourage people to get in touch with the Council as she didn't think that she would be eligible for any schemes as she works but she doesn't know what she would have done without it.



The Home Energy Efficiency Fund is a top up scheme to help residents afford heating and insulation upgrades.



The support the Energy and Homeowner Support Team delivers is not limited to the cases in this leaflet. We have a range of other schemes to help residents across the Wakefield district which include:

- Interest free loans for energy efficiency improvements and essential repairs
- A helping hand for homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage through Mortgage Breathing Space
- Supporting residents to be better at managing their money and maximising their income through Money Smart

The Energy and Homeowner Support Team is always looking at new ways to support more households across the district and during 2020-2021 a new scheme to install new heating for those in privately rented accommodation will be launched. We also aim to continue our existing fully funded energy efficiency improvement schemes.

We work closely with our colleagues across Strategic Housing and we can come and talk to your organisation or community group about our schemes and the work we do to improve the lives of residents across the Wakefield district. If you would like any further information about any of our current schemes or to organise a presentation, please get in touch!



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