

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 29 NOVEMBER 2012  
title: WARM HOMES HEALTHY PEOPLE FUND  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Committee of a successful bid to the Department of Health for the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund 2012/2013.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Community Objectives – To reduce excessive winter deaths.
  - Corporate Priorities – N/A
  - Other Considerations – N/A

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local authorities were invited to make an application for funding from the Warm Homes Healthy People fund by Friday, 5 October 2012. The aim of the fund is to support local authorities in the coming winter to reduce the levels of death and illness in their local authority that are due to vulnerable people living in cold housing, in partnership with their community and voluntary sector and statutory organisations.
- 2.2 After the success of last year, we consulted with the same community groups and agreed a bid which covered for key areas.
- energy advice and utility bill clinics
  - gas safety checks and emergency repairs
  - an active aging programme
  - warm home packs
- 2.3 The key targets identified to be achieved within the five month project are to reduce energy bills for the vulnerable households in the borough. To reduce the risk of unsafe heating systems in homes and the impact of cold damp houses on the health of occupants. Keeping active in the winter months to improve health and reduce isolation.
- 2.4 The households to be targeted with the initiative are households over 65 or with children under 5 that are in receipt of an income related benefit. Households where one member is over 80 years old. Households in temporary accommodation and any households who are referred by a health visitor or health professional. Appendix 1 is a copy of the bid submitted and includes a breakdown of the project costs.

2.5 We have received confirmation that we were successful and have been allocated our bid minus 18%. Therefore, this amounts to a £54,200 which needs to be committed by March 2013.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 The main issue with the grant is the time frame in which the money must be committed. Last year, the project was very labour intensive and involved a lot of staff time. This year each of the four key areas in the bid include working in partnership with community agencies and therefore the workload is shared.

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – existing staff time and additional staff time as accounted for within the bid.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – no implications identified. Any technical advice has been accounted for within the bid.
- Political – addressing excessive winter deaths is an important challenge for the local authority.
- Reputation – the provision of additional help for vulnerable households during the winter months maintains the Council's reputation.
- Equality & Diversity – all vulnerable households will be treated fairly.

### 5 CONCLUSION

5.1 That Committee acknowledge the success of the grant application and the importance of the scheme.

RACHAEL STOTT  
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 4567.

REF: RS/EL/291112 – HEALTH & HOUSING

## Warm Homes Healthy People fund 2012-13 APPLICATION FORM

**Please note:** the full application will need to be submitted by 5pm, Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012 by email to: [warmhomesfund@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:warmhomesfund@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

### SECTION 1

<b>1.1 Applicant Details</b>	
Name of Local Authority	<b>Ribble Valley Borough Council</b>
Name of contact within the Local Authority	<b>Rachael Stott</b>
Address	<b>Council Offices Church Walk Clitheroe BB72RA</b>
Telephone Number of contact	<b>01200 414567</b>
Email address of contact	<b>Rachael.stott@ribblevalley.gov.uk</b>

1.2 Please list all <b>partner organisations</b> (especially community and voluntary organisations) participating in the project.	
Organisation	Named Contact
a.Age UK	Linda Salzaar
b.Help Direct	Tasma Valinaki
c.Cross Roads	Mary Wison
d.Homestart	Julie Raine
e St Vincents home care and repair	Chris Roberts
f.Community Futures	Finley Hodge

<b>Proposal Details</b>
1.3 Proposal Title RV Warm Homes Healthy People
1.4 Proposal Summary – Describe the proposal and what it will achieve/who will it benefit (in no more than 300 words).
<p>Ribble Valley's consultation process identified a range of activities directed to tackle the problems associated with cold weather which impact in the home and on general health. The proposed programme includes;</p> <p><b>Energy Advice and utility bill clinics.</b> To be delivered in partnership with CAB a member of staff will be dedicated to provide a minimum of 7 hours per week offering energy efficiency advice. In addition 6 utility bill clinics will be delivered across the borough and will target rural villages who are reliant on unregulated fuel sources. A member of staff will work an additional day per week for 3 months to deliver this initiative.</p>

**Gas safety checks and emergency repairs.**The HIA for RV will carry out free gas safety checks and identify cold homes that are having a detrimental impact on the health of the occupant. Where heating repairs or replacement are required then a grant of up to £2.5k will be available for vulnerable households. The free gas safety checks will be advertised as available for households with someone over 80 yrs and in need of a free gas safety check. During the visit advice on energy efficiency will be provided.

**Active aging programme** is delivered by Age UK and runs a wide variety of exercise classes across the borough. The proposal is to increase delivery particularly in the rural villages through the winter months.

**Offer Warm Home packs** to the elderly patients discharged from the Community Hospitals during winter and attend flu vaccine clinics to offer packs to vulnerable households. Provide winter bedding parcel for all households in temporary accommodation in the borough.

### **Achievements**

Reduce energy bills for the vulnerable households.

Reduce the risk of unsafe heating systems in homes and the impact of cold damp homes on the health of the occupants.

Keeping active in the winter months improves health and reduces isolation.

### **Beneficiaries**

Households over 65 or with children under 5 yrs and in receipt of an income related benefit.

Households with one member over 80 yrs.

Households in temporary accommodation.

Household referred by a Health Visitor or health professional.

## **SECTION 2**

**2.1 Project Aims:** Describe how the proposal will address the aims and meet the criteria of the Warm Homes Healthy People fund. Please 'bullet point' key aims to be achieved. (no more than 200 words)

Educate home owners as to how to safely and efficiently keep homes warm.

Improve awareness of the health risk of cold damp housing.

Deliver a multi agency response to tackle the effect of cold weather in the borough.

Develop voluntary and community group involvement in rural parishes.

Create new partnerships between health service and housing service in the borough.

Utilise existing established advice centres (CAB) and provide suitable training to offer more expertise and the additional service of home visits when necessary.

**2.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:** Describe how your proposal has been developed and will be delivered with local partners – especially in the voluntary and community sector - (No more than 200 words)

Six voluntary and community groups were consulted to develop the proposal to be submitted. The proposed bid sets out to further develop the role of voluntary and community sector in the borough. Building these partnerships will develop new contacts between agencies and better joined up working. Experience from last years bid and the lessons learnt from the initiatives previously delivered was a key factor in developing this years bid.

**2.3 Targeting:** From the list below, please select the keywords that best describe the beneficiaries of the proposal. : Targetting

Over 75 years old	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Frail	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-existing cardiovascular or respiratory illnesses and other chronic medical conditions	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Severe mental illness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dementia	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arthritis, limited mobility or otherwise at risk of falls	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Young children	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Living in deprived circumstances	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living in homes with mould	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Fuel poor (needing to spend 10% or more of household income on heating home)	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Elderly people living on their own	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Homeless or people sleeping rough	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Other marginalised groups (please identify):	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p><b>2.4 Strategic Fit:</b> Describe how your proposal contributes to your local implementation of the Cold Weather Plan for England and builds on, and is consistent with local assessment of need (eg JSNA) and existing local programmes (No more than 200 words)</p>
<p>The proposal fits within the Cold Weather Plan for England and includes both long term and short term objectives. The more strategic element is delivered through the training of staff at the Council,CAB and the HIA,which will be used throughout the winter and in the future. The home energy advice visits and utility clinics will educate to encourage a long term change in households habits.In the short term the home visits ,warm packs and getting active will address the immediate health impact of the cold weather.</p> <p>2010 mid year population figures showed that 19.7% of the population of RV were then aged over 65 compared to the uk average of 16.6%The number of older residents was also increasing rapidly there was a 40% increase between 2004 and 2009..Many of the Borough's older residents live in remote rural areas and 6 parishes in the Borough are in the bottom 10% nationally for access to services.The percentage of local households living in fuel poverty is 16.7% compared to 11.5% for England.Also 60% of the borough is not connected to mains gas and there is a high percentage of hard to treat properties most of which have solid stone walls.</p>

<p><b>2.5 Delivery: Who will deliver this project? The</b> project must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. Describe briefly who will deliver it and what will have been achieved by that date. (Section 3 asks for specific details of funding)</p>
<p>The Council will have overall management of the scheme .The energy advice scheme will run in partnership with CAB.The gas safety checks will be delivered by HIA.The active aging programme will be delivered by Age UK.</p> <p>The Warm Home Packs will be distributed by Help Direct..A delivery plan will be agreed for each aspect of the scheme with each partner.All projects will be operational by Dec with 6 weekly monitoring agreement working towards completion in March 2013.</p>

**Section 3**

<p><b>3.1 Project Costs</b> (provide brief details of the main costs of the project, separately identifying both communications and consultancy costs)</p>	<p>£000s</p>
<p>A)Energy advice &amp; utility bill clinics includes additional staff hours at CAB and visiting officer.</p>	<p>12.5</p>

B)Gas safety checks and home energy assessments and to undertake emergency repairs .Min of 100 gas safety checks, .HIA to deliver the service with a dedicated technical officer ,caseworker and admin support 3 days per wk	27
C)Active aging programme 5 months of approximately 12 sessions per month delivered to 250 participants	3.5
D)200 Warm Homes packs and 20 homeless warm home bedding pack.	17.5
E)	
F) Communications (inc. Events, Marketing, Promotion and Publicity)	0.8
G) Consultancy Costs	2.5
<b>Total cost of project during 2012-13</b>	<b>63.8</b>
<b>Contributions from third parties/ partnership arrangements in support of the project (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Total funding contribution required from the Department of Health</b>	<b>63.8</b>

**3.2** Please give a brief summary of the **key milestones** from your project plan, including dates, to be achieved during the project and number of individuals to be supported.

Nov – Brief all agency’s on the planned winter initiatives across the borough.  
Establish the referral process with all partners.  
Agree project delivery agreements and monitoring arrangements.  
Early Dec – Training and awareness sessions delivered.  
Launch of the projects and communication programme initiated.  
Jan, Feb and March – Deliver all aspects of the project.

**3.3 Declaration:**

The project funding that is being applied for is to fund either a new project in relation to which no funding has been allocated or the funding will go to extend an existing project. The funding will not be used to replace existing funding for a project.

We confirm that voluntary and community organisations are involved in the design or delivery of this proposal.

**Name: Rachael Stott**

**Title: Housing Strategy Officer**

**Organisation:**

**Ribble Valley Borough Council**