

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 31 OCTOBER 2013  
title: WARM HOMES HEALTHY PEOPLE REVIEW  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide an overview of the impact of the Warm Homes Healthy People funding received 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – to help make people's lives safer and healthier by addressing affordable warmth and winter morbidity.
- Other Considerations – It is important to demonstrate the Council's winter planning.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Warm Homes Healthy People fund was made available to support local authorities in partnership with their local community and voluntary sector, to reduce the level of death and illness in the local authority that are due to vulnerable people living in cold houses in the winter.

### Impact

2.2 The aim of the Department of Health Warm Homes Healthy People fund was to support innovative local proposals that address public health consequences of cold housing for the most vulnerable in our communities and where current available support is not getting through. The fund aimed to improve public health by reducing the level of death and morbidity due to cold housing. Funding was available to assist local authorities to support vulnerable people at risk of suffering serious effects to their health from severe cold, especially arising from cold housing.

2.3 The expectation was that local partners, especially the voluntary and community sector, would be involved in the project proposal. Authorities needed to demonstrate they had engaged and were delivering projects in partnership with local organisations.

2.4 The fund was made available to local authorities in their emerging role as leaders in public health. However, they would be expected to demonstrate that they worked closely with local stakeholders, particularly with local voluntary and community sector and NHS partners.

2.5 Key to the success of the Ribble Valley bid was indeed partnership working. This has also been a key benefit in undertaking the project, as through delivery the Council has forged new links particularly with the health service. We have carried out joint working with GP surgeries in utilising flu vaccine clinics as a delivery point

for warm home packs. The warm homes packs have also become part of the discharge process at both Longridge and Clitheroe community hospitals.

2.6 The bid focused on the Council providing delivery of warm packs, home energy advice in the home including thermal imaging assessments and boiler replacement and repairs. Through partnership working, CAB delivered additional energy advice and utility bill sessions and Age UK provided an active ageing programme in the rural village halls.

2.7 Warm Homes Project Delivery in Ribble Valley

No of households to benefit	Service provided
1060	Warm homes packs delivered to over 65 year olds or families with children under 5s in receipt of benefit. The majority of packs were delivered to the home and general advice was given at the point of delivery.
27	Boiler replacement or repairs were approved where the boiler was not working or irreparable. Again these were made available for over 65 year olds or households with children under 5 in receipt of an income related benefit.
45	Thermal image and home energy visits made to homes to provide one to one advice.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The Secretary of State have notified all local authorities that there will be no Warm Homes Healthy People fund in 2013/2014. However, the Secretary of State stated 'Ring fenced funding of £5.45 billion for 2013-2015 has been made available to local authorities to address public health priorities determined at a local level. In setting their priorities, local authorities must take into account the Public Health Outcome Framework which has excess winter deaths as an indicator'.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – No funding was made available in 2013/2014.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – the home energy advice will continue in a reduced form.
- Political – enquiries have been received for boiler replacements and repairs but there is no offer of assistance.
- Reputation – a winter warmth plan is still required for Ribble Valley.
- Equality & Diversity – support for older people in isolated areas in the winter months is necessary.

5 **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Any funding made available from the CCG would allow the Council to continue to benefit from the established partnerships and support the most vulnerable Ribble Valley residents in the winter months.

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