

Fuel Poverty update for Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

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Introduction

- What is fuel poverty?
- Fuel poverty in North Yorkshire
- Impact of fuel poverty on health
- What is being done nationally and locally
- Future opportunities

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator.

Under this indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below

and

- when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line

There are 3 important elements in determining whether a household is fuel poor:

- household income
- household energy efficiency
- fuel prices



AVERAGE GAP is the reduction in required fuel bill that the average fuel poor household needs in order to not be classed as fuel poor.

Domestic fuel poverty is one element of the current 'cost of living' crisis

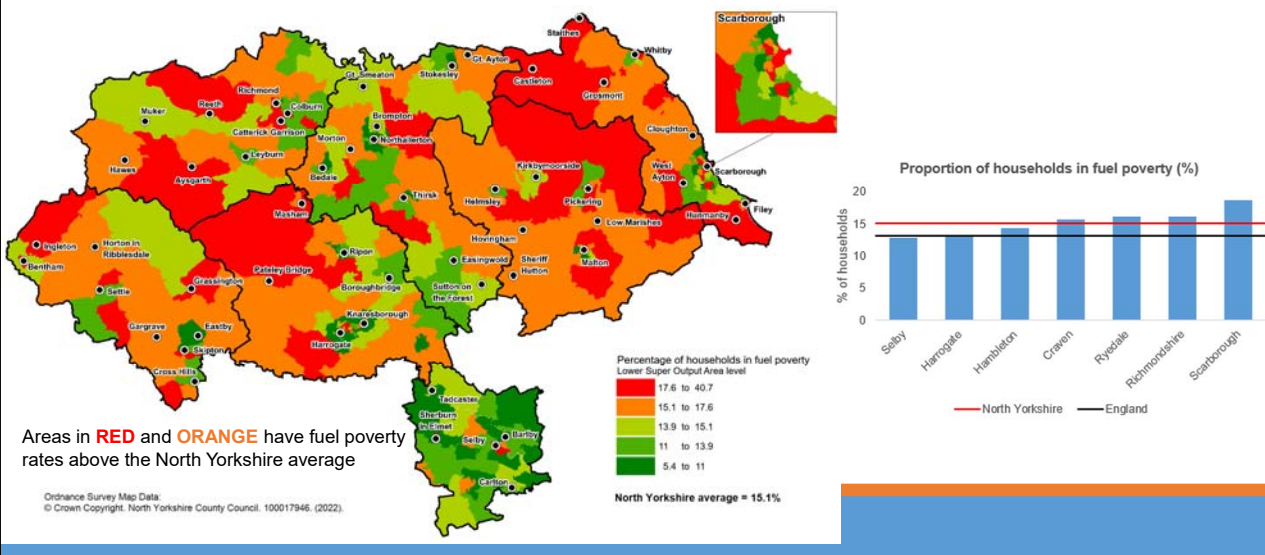
- Food poverty
- Petrol/diesel costs
- Increased mortgage rates
- Other costs

→ Competition for scarce financial resources

Also impact on businesses and economy

- Further deepens poverty at an individual level

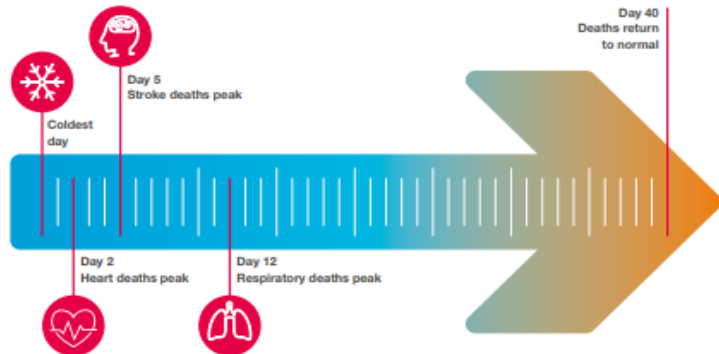
Fuel poverty in North Yorkshire



Impact of Fuel Poverty on Health

- c.35,000 excess winter deaths each year in England and Wales
- Contributing factors:
 - **poor quality housing, particularly cold homes**
 - circulating infectious diseases (e.g. COVID, flu)
 - physical hazards such as snow and ice
 - health inequalities
- The **death rate rises 2.8% for every degree Celsius drop in the outdoor temperature for people in the coldest 10% of homes**. This compares with a 0.9% rise in deaths for every degree Celsius drop in the warmest 10% of homes

Cold weather death sequence



Source: Adapted from Donaldson GC, Keatinge WR. Early increases in ischaemic heart disease mortality dissociated from and later changes associated with respiratory mortality after cold weather in south east England. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 1997; 51 (8): 643-5

Impact of Fuel Poverty on Health

- Cold homes can affect a range of health conditions
- Some individuals are more at risk than others

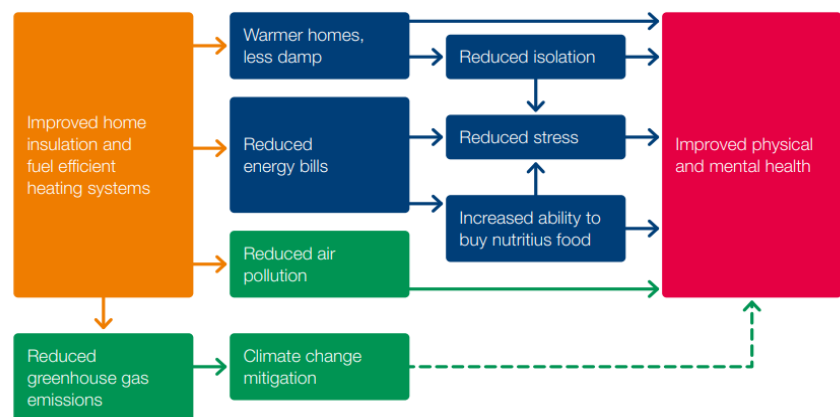


Figure 1: Mechanisms through which interventions to improve home energy efficiency can improve health. Source: Faculty of public health, Fuel Poverty and Affordable Warmth.

National response to fuel poverty

National strategies

- Fuel Poverty Strategy update consultation
- Net Zero Strategy

Funding opportunities

- Cost of Living Payment
- Energy Bill Support Scheme (£400 discount)
- Sustainable Warmth Fund



More information on national support at www.gov.uk/helpforhouseholds

North Yorkshire Response

- [Seasonal Health Strategy](#)
- [Warm & Well](#) service
- Sustainable Warmth Fund
- Household Support Fund
- [North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund](#)
- Ongoing partnership working



Warm & Well
in North Yorkshire



[More information on available cost of living support is available on the NYCC website](#)

Future opportunities



- North Yorkshire Council (April 2023)
- Levelling Up/Shared Prosperity Fund
- Climate change – co-benefits

Questions

