

Gwynedd Council Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent



This statement sets out Gwynedd Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO: Help to Heat programme October 2018 - March 2022. It aims to support households living in Gwynedd who are most likely to experience fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

Introduction - The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an obligation on energy suppliers aimed at helping households cut their energy bills and reduce carbon emissions by installing energy saving measures.

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. Gwynedd Council do not fund any measures, but have developed the eligibility criteria to assist the greatest number of fuel poor homes in Gwynedd.

Identifying eligible households – This funding is only available for private owner occupiers and private rented tenants. Qualification of flexible eligibility in Gwynedd 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

Contractors – Energy suppliers or agents of energy suppliers involved in flexible eligibility surveys and works identified will comply with the Data Protection Act in accordance with OFGEM requirements and to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards. It is required that contractors have the relevant qualifications including **Pas 2030, Certificate of Insurance** and able to offer a **bilingual service** in accordance with our Welsh Language Policy.

Costs Associated with Gwynedd Declaration – The administration charge levied by Gwynedd Council in providing the declaration necessary for clients to access the ECO Flexible Eligibility scheme is £150. The charge must be paid by the energy supplier or their agent on completion of works and may NOT under any circumstances, be passed on to the client receiving assistance via the scheme.

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 Gwynedd 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 **15 points or greater** in Table 1 below; or
- ii) the property must have a rating of **E on an EPC** or have a score of **more than 10 and a maximum of 14 points** in Table 1 below

and be either that a household is fuel poor (households that spend more than 10% of income on household fuel costs if home was properly heated to an acceptable level) or a member of the household is vulnerable and at a greater risk due to living in a cold property. Vulnerability is determined by a member of the household meeting the criteria in Question 2.

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		
	150mm-250mm	2		
	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	2		
	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	

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, Gwynedd Council will be adopting the following approach.

The NICE guidelines '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.

Gwynedd 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 under 5 and those in primary and secondary school 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 required to confirm any health related issues iii – xiii.

Governance

The Officers below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority:

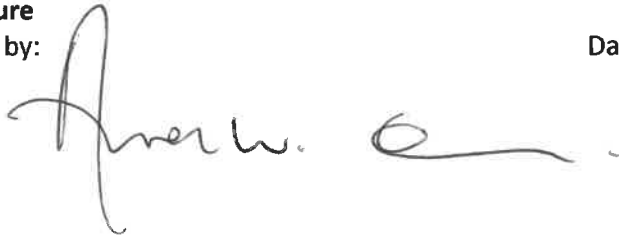
- i. Rhys Williams Job Title: Housing Strategy Development Officer
- ii. Aled Humphreys Job Title: Strategic Housing Manager
- iii. Arwel Owen Job Title: Senior Housing and Well-being Manager

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 Gwynedd Council.

Signature

Signed by:



Date:

14/12/18

**Senior Housing and Well-being Manager
Gwynedd Council**