

Flintshire County Council Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Question 1: How many people over the age of 18 normally live in your property, including yourself?

This establishes the number of adults for the purposes of household composition (i).

Question 2: How many people under the age of 18 normally live in your property?

This establishes the number of children for the purposes of household composition (i).

Question 3: After paying the rent or mortgage (if you have one), how much income does your household usually have left each month?

- a) More than (e.g. the threshold amount from Table 1 given the number of adults and children stated under questions 1 and 2); or
- b) Less than (e.g. the threshold amount from Table 1 given the number of adults and children stated under questions 1 and 2).

This establishes whether the household's income, after housing costs, is above or below the low income threshold. If the answer to Question 3 is (b), they should be considered as low income.

Example: A household has 2 adults 18 years of age or over, and 3 children under 18 years. Using Table 1 as an example, the appropriate threshold is £21,600 annually (or £1,800 per month). Their answer to Question 3 reveals that they have less than £1,930 per month after they have paid their rent or mortgage (if they have one). In this example, they can therefore be considered as low income.

Identifying High Cost Households

Due to the nature of the fuel poverty definition used for England, gathering information that relates to the energy costs in a given property and combining it with information on that household's income is more effective in targeting the fuel poor than using income information alone.

We have considered multiple approaches that reflect reasons such as data availability and appreciation of certain property types and as such have settling on the two following approaches as holding both the accuracy and simplicity to enable us to confidently determine High Cost Households.

Those are:

- (1) In standard properties, use Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) bands E, F or G in order to determine a household is very likely to have high energy costs;
- (2) Score equal to, or more than, 50 using the table below:

Table 2.

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Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are there in the home?	1	0
	2	10
	3	35
	4	55
	5	70
	6 or more	80
Are energy payments made by Direct Debit?	Yes	0
	No	15
What is the tenure?	Private rented	15
	Owner occupied	10
	Registered Social Landlord	0
	Local Authority	0
Does the home use a boiler?	Yes	0
	No	5
Was the home built before 1964?	Yes	25
	No	0
What is the main fuel type?	Mains Gas	0
	Electricity	30
	Other	15
Park Home	Yes	50
	No	0

(b) Criteria for identifying low income and vulnerability to cold

To identify a household as low income and vulnerable, Flintshire County Council adopt the following approach and require that the household must satisfy the following:

- (1) Meet the low income household threshold (see example A, above); and
- (2) Determine that the householders are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.

Vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home

The NICE guideline 'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' states that: a wide range of people are vulnerable 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.

Flintshire County Council will target households containing people with the following characteristics, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

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- i. Aged over 60, and particularly those over 75
- ii. Children under 5 and pregnant mothers
- 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)

(c) Requirements for solid wall insulation “in-fill” projects

For some solid wall insulation projects, certain properties may be classed as eligible based on the in-fill classification. Flintshire County Council recognised the criteria as follows:

Property Type	Requirements	In-fill available
Project consisting of a pair of semi-detached houses or bungalows, or a building containing no more than two domestic premises.	At least one of the two-properties must be declared by the LA as FP or LIVC (i.e. 50% of the properties are FP or LIVC).	The other private property to which it is directly adjoined is eligible for solid wall insulation.
Project consisting of any premises that are contained in the same building (e.g. flats), immediately adjacent buildings (e.g. neighbouring properties) or in the same terrace.	At least two in three properties on the list must be declared by the LA as FP or LIVC (i.e. at least 66% of the properties are FP or LIVC).	The other (i.e. up to one third) of private properties in the project are eligible for solid wall insulation, provided they are either in the same building, an immediately adjacent building or in the same terrace as the ones identified as FP or LIVC.

3) Acting on behalf of another local authority

We are not acting on behalf of another local authority.

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4) Joint statement of intent

We are not working in association with another local authority.

5) Governance

The officer below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Name: Niall Waller

Job title: Service Manager – Enterprise and Regeneration

Telephone: 01352 702137

Email: niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk

6) Referrals

From time to time referrals may come from various sources that are not currently defined however information of such sources will be detailed within our Flexible Eligibility review, which will be provided directly to all interested parties and published on our website no later than April 2018.

7) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

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 Flintshire County Council.

The Council's Domestic Energy Efficiency Project Team will audit the process by carrying out data checks on at least 10% of the properties qualifying for flex.

These audits will be undertaken at the end of every project area.

8) Signature

Signed by:

Date: 15.2.18



Chief Officer, Community & Enterprise
Flintshire County Council

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