

# Fuel Poverty Update for Derbyshire Partnership Forum

David Arkle  
Housing Manager  
Amber Valley Borough Council



**Amber Valley**  
Borough Council

# Levels of Fuel Poverty

- Amber Valley 14.6%
- Bolsover 13.9%
- Chesterfield 12.9%
- Derbyshire Dales 14.2%
- Erewash 13.6%
- High Peak 14.5%
- North East Derbyshire 11.4%
- South Derbyshire 12.4%
- *Huge variation across each area*
- Derbyshire 13.7%
- England 10.9%

# Derbyshire is well placed

- Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP) has a long history of delivery (dates back to the 1990's)
- Demonstrating combined authority principles by bringing in more funding to the county that individual Councils could on their own
- Potential to continue to attract greater levels of funding
- Good communication with Government Departments



# Lots to Celebrate

- Partnership work in Derbyshire recognised nationally
- In March 2015 Health Booster Fund £1million available
- Existing schemes invited to bid
- Local Authority Energy Partnership £164K
- Amber Valley Borough Council £75K
- Derby City Council £83K
  
- Total £322,000



# Health Booster Fund

- Department of Energy and Climate Change recognition of existing 'boiler on prescription' schemes
- Embedding the importance of being able to keep warm to Derbyshire residents in poor health
- Seeking to focus support and effort to those that need it most



# Health Booster Delivery

- Successful delivery will need continued effective engagement by partners
- We need support to identify residents that are eligible for the financial support that is available
- Asking professionals to think a bit more about the needs of the person that they are seeing in the home, rather than focus just on the task



# Tackling Fuel Poverty County Wide

- Anti-Poverty Strategy action plan on affordable warmth is instead of a separate countywide strategy
- Incorporates recommendations from the Director of Public Health's Annual Report
- Delivery of the Public Health funded Healthy Homes Project
- Recognises the important links with poverty



# Fuel Poverty Themes

- More systematic process for identifying those who need energy advice and assistance
- Embedding awareness of housing need
- Securing investment in measures
- Encourage households to take up measures
- Continue to raise awareness
- Lobby Government and build on relationships with DECC to raise profile of the needs of the fuel poor






# Challenges

- Numbers of low income households living in inefficient homes
- Heathy Home project accessing benefits data across Derbyshire
- Shortage of realistic solutions of those in rural/off gas network areas
- Young families living in the private rented sector
- Older owner occupiers under occupying
- Some of the answers relate to meeting future housing needs to give people choices to move to more affordable homes



# Some Questions for the Partnership

- How can Derbyshire support successful delivery of fuel poverty interventions?
  - How can we embed tackling fuel poverty with other objectives?
  - How can Derbyshire be at the forefront of supporting the delivery of a low carbon economy based on domestic installations bringing jobs and warmer, cheaper homes to run?
  - How can we support larger scale regeneration benefits of installing external wall insulation?
- 

# Thank You for Listening

## Any Questions

[david.arkle@ambervalley.gov.uk](mailto:david.arkle@ambervalley.gov.uk)

01773 841334



**Amber Valley**  
Borough Council