



Which Council Aim does this case study deliver?

To meet housing need in the Ryedale District Council Area

To create the conditions for economic success

To have a high quality, clean and sustainable environment

Fuel Poverty/Vulnerable Households – the nationally accepted definitions:

A household is considered to be in fuel poverty if they need to spend more than 10% of their income to achieve adequate warmth for health and comfort.

A vulnerable household is deemed to be one containing children or those who are elderly, sick or disabled.

Based on this definition over 4 million households in the United Kingdom are in fuel poverty.

A Private Sector Stock Condition survey was carried out in Ryedale in 2008, which indicated that 34.3% of private sector households were in fuel poverty, with 12.7% of the properties failing to meet the energy efficiency requirements of the Decent Homes Standard.

Funding was obtained in 2006 from the Regional Housing Board to set up energy efficiency schemes across the region to help reduce fuel poverty.

Ryedale initially received £90K, which was split over the two years of 06/07 and 07/08. This funding was used to improve the thermal efficiency in properties in the form of Loft and Cavity Wall insulation and in certain circumstances to alter or provide more efficient heating within the property. This was achieved in the form of Energy Efficiency Grants.

The grants are aimed specifically at vulnerable households and helped 109 households throughout the district in that time period. A further £200K was obtained in 08/09 and 09/10 which to date has helped 208 more vulnerable households. Further funding will be made available in 10/11 to ensure continuance of the scheme.

These grants are administered by officers of the Private Sector Team as opposed to the Energy Saving Trust (EST), which administers these grants on behalf of the other Local Authorities in the region. This has led to an incidental effect of benefiting the local economy and ensuring value for money, as local contractors are used wherever possible and no fees are paid to EST, hence ensuring that more funding is available to households in Ryedale. As the grants are paid directly to the occupier this is a further benefit in that the works only attract VAT at a rate of 5% as opposed to 17½ %. All works to help improve energy efficiency will also help reduce the carbon footprint of each property.

Quotes from local residents:-

“This new boiler will help me reduce my gas consumption” - Pickering Resident

“Since I had the boiler it’s now wonderful, I can now go to bed and I’m fast asleep with 10 minutes and before it took me such a long time” - Pickering Resident

“It’s lovely my house is so warm now, thank you for all your help” – Nunnington Resident

Ryedale is also part of the of the County Affordable Warmth group, whose members include all the sub-regions' local Authorities, the PCT, Adult and Community Services, the National Energy for Action, Fire Service, EAGA, the Energy Saving Trust and the Department of Works and Pensions. This group has successfully launched the 'Hotspot Scheme', which allows for all front line officers who visit vulnerable households to raise awareness of the various schemes available from the Fire Service and the Department of Works and Pension.

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