



Warm and Well Borders – Internal Project briefing for Partners

Fuel poverty affects around 31% of households in the Borders, where the rural nature of the area, the type of housing (high volumes of older and off-gas) and the low wage economy, contribute to higher levels of fuel poverty than the Scottish average. A growing body of evidence points to negative impacts of fuel poverty on health and wellbeing outcomes.

Scottish Borders Council is committed to tackling fuel poverty and has therefore secured two years of funding in the amount of **£551,000**, from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund to deliver the Warm and Well Borders project. The Warm and Well Borders project will help to build and sustain beyond that term, a multi-agency approach to reducing fuel poverty, improving energy efficiency of homes, and improving the health and well-being of the most vulnerable households in the Borders.

Warm and Well Borders will target vulnerable groups specifically through health and social care partnerships, to provide support and advocacy, and to tackle fuel poverty. Project officers will broaden referral pathways working cooperatively with the local voluntary sector, social housing providers, and community health and social care practitioners to extend the reach of the project and share project results.

Warm and Well Borders will be delivered through a partnership between Scottish Borders Council, Changeworks, three local Citizens Advice Bureaux, Home Energy Scotland, health and social care teams and community health organisations.

By the end of the project period, Warm and Well Borders aims to have:

- Supported 1,420 fuel poor households to live affordably warm at home, by tackling high fuel bills, fuel debt, and supporting skills to be in better control of energy costs and to build resilience to tackle the causes of fuel poverty.
- Supported 1,100 people to access benefits they are entitled to, to set up basic bank accounts, and to learn skills to live within their means reducing the need for credit options.
- Achieved up to £377,500 financial savings for householders.
- Referred an additional 440 households to access Home Energy Scotland advice, increasing referrals to schemes providing funded physical energy efficiency measures.

The service will enter delivery phase from April 2020 at which time a more formal public announcement will be made.

For any questions or queries please contact: Neil Robertson, Energy Efficiency Strategy and Policy Officer at Scottish Borders Council 01896 661392 or email: Neil.Robertson@scotborders.gov.uk or Kirsten Cook, Affordable Warmth Team Manager at Changeworks 0131 555 4010 or email: kirstencook@changeworks.org.uk