



FUEL POVERTY IN HALTON



FUEL POVERTY

means households are unable to heat their homes well enough to maintain their health or they are spending so much on heating that there is not enough disposable income for other essentials.

Some families have to choose whether to **heat** or **eat**


WHAT IS THE ISSUE?



Almost **1 in 10** households in Halton live in fuel poverty.

>>>> This is around **5,000** households.

This is better than the national average, but there are areas of Halton where fuel poverty is high.

>>>> Therefore there are **inequalities** 



Windmill Hill, Appleton & Kingsway wards have the highest levels of fuel poverty

CAUSES OF FUEL POVERTY



poor energy efficiency of homes



low household income



high fuel costs

RISK FACTORS



INCOME

Households with low income are more likely to struggle with rising fuel costs.

Unemployed people are more likely to live in fuel poverty.

Vulnerable people will be affected by cuts to benefits.



HOUSING

Households are more likely to live in fuel poverty if they:

- live in privately rented accommodation.
- do not have central heating.
- are single occupancy.
- live in homes that are not energy efficient.



HEALTH CONDITION OR DISABILITY

People are more likely to be affected by cold homes if they have:

- heart disease
- a respiratory condition
- a mental health condition
- a disability
- mobility problems



AGE

Children and the elderly are more likely to be affected by cold housing and fuel poverty.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?



COST

Fuel poverty comes at a huge cost to health services. The NHS spends about £1.4 billion per year to treat the illnesses caused and worsened by cold homes.

Investing £1 in improving affordable warmth can deliver a 42 pence saving in health costs for the NHS.



INEQUALITIES

Fuel poverty widens inequalities as it particularly affects vulnerable groups such as the very young, elderly and income deprived.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

children

Living in a cold home can:

- affect development
- lead to chest problems
- worsen existing health conditions
- reduce educational achievements
- affect mental well-being

young people

Fuel poverty can lead to poor mental health.

Young people are 5 times more likely to suffer mental health problems if they live in a cold home.

adults

Living in a cold home can:

- cause poor mental health
- worsen existing health conditions
- increase risk of falls
- increase risk of premature death
- increase excess winter deaths

WHAT CAN WE DO?

There is already a great deal of work happening by **Halton Borough Council, the voluntary sector, charities, the NHS and local Fire and Rescue Services.**

»»»» But there is more work to do

THE VISION

All households in Halton can achieve the heating levels they need to maintain comfort and good health, at an affordable cost.

OBJECTIVES

- 1** Increase awareness of fuel poverty amongst professionals and the public.
- 2** Identify people who are living in cold homes or at risk of fuel poverty.
- 3** Identify and monitor support available and ensure that people living in cold homes or fuel poverty are able to access support.

WE WILL ACHIEVE THESE BY

Making every contact count.

Working together to maximise efforts of various agencies.