

APPENDIX II

Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) Initial Screening Record 2021-2022

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy for consultation

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening
Melanie Holland

Decision, review, and monitoring		
Decision	Yes	No
Initial (part one) ESHIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		✓

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations
<p>The screening process ahead of the proposed consultation indicates a likely medium positive impact across the Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, particularly Age and Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, and Sex (caring responsibilities). There are also anticipated medium positive impacts for those individuals and households who find themselves in circumstances where they may be considered to be vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion. This includes individual and households who present as homeless, and households living in fuel poverty, as well as intersectionality for individuals with regard to Age, for example young people who are care leavers and may also have a learning disability, and with regard to the circumstances in which people may find themselves, for example veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families. For the groupings of Race and of Religion or Belief, the impact is anticipated to be neutral to low positive with outreach efforts to engage with those for whom English is not their first language, eg refugee families.</p>

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The proposed action plan will be subject to regular monitoring and the Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Opportunities to enhance positive impacts will be at the forefront of monitoring and review, although no negative impacts are anticipated, regular monitoring will ensure such impacts are identified and changes made to project delivery.

ADD The Council has been using elements of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) to help tackle fuel poverty. Funding has been used to enable the Keep Shropshire Warm service to provide additional support to fuel poor households across the local authority, particularly those struggling with costs as a result of the ongoing 'energy crisis'. In addition, funding has been used to help enable larger energy efficiency measures, by funding additional works required that are preventing the installation of measures. Examples include assistance for vulnerable residents to help clear hoarding in properties to enable the installation of insulation or new central heating systems.

ADD The portfolio holder will continue to be involved and engaged along with SC councillors and other stakeholders, alongside the local authority keeping abreast of good practice in comparator rural authorities.

Associated ESHIAs

Health Inequality Plan

Climate Change Strategy

Local Plan Partial Review ESHIAs

ESHIA in relation to housing policy approaches

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of any other considerations. This includes climate change considerations

As set out below the draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is inextricably linked to tackling climate change and improving health and wellbeing. As noted above, these positive impacts can be enhanced through attracting additional resources and ensuring buy-in.

Climate change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy seeks to tackle fuel poverty through a range of sustainable measures to provide affordable warmth whilst increasing the energy performance of homes and reducing carbon emissions, with the ultimate aim of homes being net zero carbon. Therefore, aims to ensure a positive impact on the below areas:

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Climate change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy seeks to tackle fuel poverty through a range of sustainable measures to provide affordable warmth whilst increasing the energy performance of homes and reducing carbon emissions, with the ultimate aim of homes being net zero carbon. Therefore, aims to ensure a positive impact on the below areas:

- energy and fuel consumption (buildings and/or travel);
- renewable energy generation;
- carbon offsetting or mitigation; and
- climate change adaptation.

Health and well being

Cold homes are linked to both an increased risk of developing and worsening a wide range of health conditions including respiratory conditions, cardiovascular diseases, poor mental health, dementia, hypothermia, as well as problems with childhood development and unintentional injury. In some circumstances, health problems may be exacerbated to a degree that they may cause death.



In 2019 it was estimated the NHS spends at least £2.5 billion per year on treating illnesses that are directly linked to cold, damp and dangerous homes. Cold homes and fuel poverty contribute to the phenomenon of excess winter deaths. England saw an estimated 63,000 excess winter deaths in 2020–21. Estimates suggest that some ten per cent of excess winter deaths are directly attributable to fuel poverty and 21.5% are attributable to cold homes.

Babies, children, older people, people with disabilities and those with pre-existing health problems are at greatest risk of health problems as a result of living in cold homes, and therefore are particularly at risk to the health consequences of fuel poverty. Households particularly at risk of fuel poverty include low income households, households with dependent children, people living with disabilities and minority ethnic minority households, many of which already face many health inequalities.

Economic and societal/wider community

High fuel costs reduce available resources for transport, particularly important in Shropshire, socialising and meeting with family and access to essential services, all of which are important social determinants of health and wellbeing. In particular, households facing fuel poverty can be priced out of having sufficient and healthy foods, and there may be further limitations in the resources available to prepare

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i>		8 November 2011
<i>Any internal service area support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i> Mrs Lois Dale, Rurality and Equalities Specialist		15 th November 2022

**This refers to other officers within the service area*

***This refers to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g., the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, and Public Health colleagues*

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i>		
<i>Accountable officer's name</i>		

**This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer*

A. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>Unaffordable fuel bills can lead to choices such as heat or eat; and cold homes can both lead to and exacerbate health problems and health inequalities. In addition, the use of fossil fuels as a form of heating results in carbon emissions which pollute the environment and cause climate change. By making homes more energy efficient and by using low-carbon heating measures, then homes should be more affordable to heat, with an associated reduction in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Fuel poverty relates to households who must spend a high proportion of their household income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature. It is affected</p>

by a household's income, their fuel costs, their energy consumption, and the energy efficiency of their home.

The current central government definition of fuel poverty in England is 'Low Income Low Energy Efficiency' (LILEE). A household is fuel poor if:

- they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G, as shown by an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC); and
- their disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.

Fuel poverty can be alleviated by improving a household's income, reducing their fuel costs, and improving the energy efficiency of their home, thus reducing the amount of energy needed to heat their home. Therefore, the ability to keep a home warm becomes affordable, this being "affordable warmth".

Sustainable affordable warmth is about improving the energy efficiency of homes, which reduces energy consumption, whilst also ensuring energy costs and the associated energy efficiency measures remain affordable.

Reducing fuel usage, especially fossil fuels, helps to reduce carbon emissions. Moreover, it is also important to move towards using sustainable non-fossil fuels to provide heat and power, whilst ensuring that the capital outlay for non-fossil fuel technologies is not prohibitively expensive and does not result in households facing higher fuel costs in the longer term.

Central government's 2017 Clean Growth Strategy sets out that by 2030 all social housing is expected to reach EPC Band C. In addition, the Climate Change Act 2008 requires all domestic dwellings to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050. These targets require extremely high levels of investment to retrofit existing stock.

The Council has an energy advice service, Keep Shropshire Warm. It also seeks to attract funding for energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures through the Energy Company Obligation and from central government grant schemes.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is for all Shropshire residents, elected Members, STAR Housing, parish and town councils, housing associations and private landlords. It also can be used to support funding bids to organisations such as BEIS and Homes England.

Stakeholders include all those involved in health care across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, as well as neighbouring local authorities and rural local authorities and organisations with whom we work through the Rural Services Network and through the County Councils Network.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy sets out the current challenges in relation to fuel poverty and reaching net zero carbon, with current approaches and proposed actions to seek to achieve affordable warmth and reduce carbon emissions. Therefore, it is not a service change, but a document setting out the challenges and the approaches the Council is currently taking and proposing to explore to tackle these challenges.

The draft Strategy has been further informed by the Council's Climate Change Strategy and the Housing Strategy 2020-2025, and by national legislation and guidance including the Decent Homes Standard and the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy (and any others that could usefully be mentioned here)

The actions set out in the draft Strategy themselves include specific proposed action to add to the evidence base, ie to undertake quantitative and qualitative research at a Shropshire level to evidence the positive impact on health and wellbeing of warm homes.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Public consultation with elected Members, parish and town councils, housing associations, private landlords, council and housing association tenants, the NHS, neighbouring local authorities, and Members of Parliament.

ADD this will involve a range of communication and engagement mechanisms and is scheduled to take place (insert dates). Results will be fed back in subsequent ESHIA and Cabinet report.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with disability)			Medium positive	
<u>Disability</u> (please include mental health conditions and syndromes; hidden disabilities including autism and Crohn's disease; physical and sensory disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; and HIV)			Medium positive	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Medium Positive	
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Religion and belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Sex</u> (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Medium Positive (caring responsibility)	

Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families)			Medium Positive	

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation? .			Medium Positive	
Will the proposal <i>indirectly impact</i> an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking? .			Medium Positive	
Will the policy have a <i>direct impact</i> on the community - social,			Medium Positive	

<p>economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p>				
<p>Will there be a likely change in <i>demand</i> for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p>			<p>Medium Positive (reduced demand)</p>	

<p>Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and economic or societal impacts</p>
<p>The fundamental action to enhance the positive impact of the proposed draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is attracting additional resources, capital funding is paramount, but also ensuring supply chains and a trained workforce is in place.</p> <p>The Council recognises that in promoting and facilitating retrofitting and the use of new clean technologies, it must work to develop the local supply chain, which includes having a skilled local workforce with the capacity to deliver the activity that is needed. The Council is using the procurement process to establish models of retrofit delivery that engage and upskill the local supply chain. Moreover, it is essential to understand the impacts of retrofitting and using new technologies and the Council is committed to monitoring and evaluating retrofit works to ensure intended outcomes are realised.</p> <p>In addition, residents across all tenures need to fully appreciate the importance of improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions, therefore this is not only about continued awareness raising, but recognising that it is about gaining trust and buy-in.</p>

