

Helping West Sussex residents tackle fuel poverty - Advice for Councillors Winter 2022

The need for home energy support services and schemes is emerging as a consistent priority for the Winter of 2022 and is expected to continue. Energy price rises, rising costs of living and the effects of the pandemic are just some of the factors fuelling this crisis. This document gives a brief overview of the home energy support services, eligibility, and contact/referral details for West Sussex residents.

Living in a cold home can cause physical and mental health problems, make existing illness worse, deepen poverty and debt, affect children's education, and increase social isolation. Sadly, living in a cold home is a reality for many West Sussex households. But there are solutions, some words from a trusted professional and/or a Councillor can make all the difference to a vulnerable household, or a household needing to access assistance for the first time.

Thankfully at this time West Sussex has a range of support services available, including practical advice and grant funding for residents who may be struggling to keep warm and well. West Sussex is part of a consortium of Local Authorities who have been successful in securing Local Authority Delivery (LAD) funding for a range of low carbon heating technologies and insulation measures for low-income households. Updates on these schemes will be found on the West Sussex energy website (listed on the page below), further updates expected in February/March.

Action in West Sussex

The West Sussex Affordable Energy Partnership are committed to addressing and reducing the impact and incidence of fuel poverty across West Sussex. The partnership includes representatives from all West Sussex Local Authorities, WSCC and wider community partners. These meetings are quarterly and facilitated by the West Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator.



West Sussex
Affordable Energy

The partnership has recently launched: **Fuel Poverty: West Sussex Framework for Action 2021-2026**

The purpose of the framework is to bring West Sussex in line with [NICE guidance \(NG6\)](#), England's fuel poverty target¹, [Sustainable warmth: protecting vulnerable households in England policy paper](#), promote best practice and engage policy makers in the wider conversations about impacts of fuel poverty across West Sussex. We look at current need and demands for services as well as the Governments direction for energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies. As we look to the future, it is important that we have a fair and just low carbon heating transition for low incomes households.

¹ The fuel poverty target is to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by 2030

Key sources of information and support

The West Sussex Affordable Energy Partnership are committed to 'working towards a West Sussex where residents have the information, resources and support available so they can afford to keep warm and well in their homes'. Below is a summary of some of the home energy support available to residents. Please note that this is a rapidly changing environment with new schemes emerging and some schemes reaching capacity.

1. West Sussex Energy Website:

This website is a trusted source of information for West Sussex residents and professionals. Residents can be directed here, or professionals can get up to date information/resources to support their clients. Provides information on a range of home energy issues including cold homes, where to get help, heating/insulation grants and more. The 'Advice' section provides a list of the main home energy services, grants and relevant local Council schemes for each West Sussex District and Borough area. You can sign up to receive the [Annual Autumn/Winter newsletter](#) with the latest information on support services, schemes, and grants. Sign up on the bottom of all West Sussex energy website. *(Website maintained by the West Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator in partnership with local D&B's and community partners.)*

Website:	https://westsussexenergy.co.uk/
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2. West Sussex Citizens Advice Home Energy Telephone Service²

West Sussex residents can get FREE tailor-made home energy advice from the Citizens Advice home energy telephone service. Available to all housing tenures. The one stop shop telephone service is provided by Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice but covers all West Sussex. They can help with:

- Information on local and national schemes to help keep households keep warm and well at home. Support applying for the Warm Home Discount etc
- Helping to find funding for further energy saving and heating measures
- Support with energy and other household debts
- Signpost to other relevant community services and schemes, and much more

Call:	01243 974063 (Monday to Friday 10am- 4pm)
Email:	energy@arunchichestercab.org.uk
Website:	https://arunchichestercab.org.uk/contact-us/energy-2022/

² This is an externally funded service, through the Energy Saving Trust Redress Scheme, funding ends October 2022. The Partnership are keen to hear from Members, health boards, CCG to help ensure this service remains after October 2022, as this has been identified as a risk to services.

UPDATE: Jan 2022-March 2022- Citizens Advice are currently supporting WSCC to distribute the Household Support Fund. If you have a client (eligibility criteria applies) that you'd like to refer, you can do so through their third-party referral links: For Arun and Chichester: www.arunchichestercab.org.uk/refer
For clients in all other West Sussex areas: www.advicewestsussex.org.uk/refer

3. LEAP

West Sussex residents living on a **low income or vulnerable to the cold** may also be eligible for a free home energy visit. This can include FREE simple energy saving measures such as LED's and draught proofing. LEAP is available to all housing tenures, Owner occupied, private and socially rented homes.

This is a winter only scheme – and can become over subscribed, and as such may have to close for new referrals.

Call:	0800 060 7567
Email:	support@applyforleap.org.uk
Website:	https://applyforleap.org.uk/

4. West Sussex Emergency Heater Scheme

Emergency heater scheme: Professional/frontline referral only. Loan scheme for plug in electric oil filled heaters for low-income residents with no working heating system. This is a short-term service to help residents keep warm while their heating is being repaired or replaced. Must be homeowner or private rented and on a low income or vulnerable. (Usually operates Oct - March). For more information or to make an online application:

Website:	https://westsussexenergy.co.uk/frontline-worker-information/emergency-heater-referral/
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This advice sheet has been prepared by Emma Pagett, West Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator, in collaboration West Sussex Affordable Energy Partnership. More detailed information can be requested, and further support organisations and schemes are listed on the West Sussex energy website. Should you want to find out more or to contact your local District and Borough lead please don't hesitate to contact: Emma Pagett, emma.pagett@arun.gov.uk