



Health Through Warmth

With temperatures dropping, many people will be reaching for the thermostat, which is why the npower Health Through Warmth scheme is raising awareness of the impact that warmth in the home can have on health and wellbeing.

The scheme, which is managed locally by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, aims to help vulnerable residents whose health is made worse by inadequate heating. It works with local organisations to identify vulnerable people who need help and to fund and install heating measures, as well as providing benefit checks, fire safety visits, gas connections, insulation and energy efficiency advice.

Help from npower Health Through Warmth may be available to vulnerable homeowners who have a long term illness, a low income with little or no savings and who are unable to fully fund measures, such as a new boiler or heating system (if broken). You do not have to be, or become, an npower customer to benefit from the scheme.

Locally, over the last 14 years, the scheme has helped more than 6,000 vulnerable people and levered nearly £7million to help fund heating work required, including over £150,000 from charitable organisations. In addition almost £500,000 was contributed from the unique npower Health Through Warmth Crisis Fund.

One couple to benefit from the scheme's holistic approach is Barbara and Michael, who contacted East Riding of Yorkshire Council when their old oil boiler stopped working, leaving them without any heating or hot water and having to use expensive electric portable heaters.

Michael has a circulatory condition and Barbara was also suffering from stress, meaning she was unable to work.

Jane Mears, the local Health Through Warmth co-ordinator, helped Barbara and Michael to apply for a free gas connection from Northern Gas Networks and arranged the installation of a new and efficient gas central heating system, accessing funding from the Government ECO grant scheme and securing the additional funding required from Hospitality Action, The National Caravan Council Benevolent Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the unique npower Health Through Warmth Crisis Fund.

Jane organised the installation of a SMART meter, meaning that Barbara and Michael will never have an estimated bill to pay again and also helped them apply to successfully write off their electricity debt.

Barbara said: “I was delighted when I found out the scheme would be able to help us, we’d never have been able to afford to fix the old boiler and it was making life miserable. Having the central heating back up and running really has made such a difference.”

Barbara and Michael’s experience is the perfect example of how the scheme can transform lives.

If you have lived in your property for more than six months and you don’t have heating or your heating has broken down, Health Through Warmth may be able to help you.

Contact your local Health Through Warmth Co-ordinator, based at East Riding of Yorkshire Council, by:

T: 01482 396 278 / 01482 396 358

Or

Email: energyefficiency@eastriding.gov.uk

