



YORKSHIRE ENERGY DOCTOR CIC: GREENMOOR COMMUNITY ENERGY SAVING ADVICE

OVERVIEW

19% of households in the Lidget Green and Scholemoor areas of Bradford were reported to be in fuel poverty, which has adverse impacts on physical and mental health. Yorkshire Energy Doctor (YED) wished to offer practical and accessible help to local residents, supporting them to switch to cheaper energy tariffs. This would enable residents to heat their homes in a more affordable way, whilst also allowing YED to review effective engagement with different community groups and residents.

SOLUTION

Although the project did not involve a new initiative, it would deliver work in a new target area in the form of a pilot programme of activity. New data would be collected, such as the evidence of need, impact and learning as well as the role of community anchors in tackling fuel poverty; this information would support a larger application to the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities Programme.

OUTCOMES

- Volunteers/frontline staff involved: 21
- Outreach events held: 8
- Household visits: 25
- Beneficiaries: 147 households (352 individuals)
- Estimated savings: £10,851

The project targeted existing community groups to spread its message, offer help, and train the trainer. This included members of staff from the Lidget Green Children's Centre and Farnham Children's Centre who both support vulnerable families with a child under five years old.

Home visits were very resource intense but generated the best outputs; YED conducted visits to 25 households and six follow-up visits to five households where additional help was required. Data was logged for all outputs, including switching energy supplier, applications for the Warm Home Discount, referrals for insulation or boiler schemes, low-cost

energy efficiency measures that were installed, Priority Service Register sign-ups, debt applications and any other advice given. In total, the visits saved £10,851 as well as providing additional health and wellbeing benefits.

Eight outreach events took place, delivered in partnership with various local community groups; YED engaged with 76 residents to discuss tariff switching, ways to save energy in the home, grants and energy efficiency schemes. They also took 25 phone enquiries over the course of the project

The project has left a legacy in the area; since being recruited by YED and involved in this project, one of the community groups secured additional funding to continue to provide energy and smart meter advice to vulnerable people.

OBJECTIVES

The grant will help to tackle fuel poverty by helping Bradford residents to heat their homes at a more affordable cost

Project:	GreenMoor Community Energy Saving Advice
Group:	Yorkshire Energy Doctor CIC
Theme:	Reducing energy use
Area of benefit:	Bradford
Date:	Nov 2015-Nov 2016
Contact:	www.yorkshireenergydoctor.org.uk kate@yorkshireenergydoctor.org.uk

A PIECE OF ADVICE

Trust is vital in getting households to take up the support available. YED addressed this challenge and reached out to a diverse range of residents in terms of age and ethnicity by partnering with a large variety of community groups already running activities in the target area. This included the walking club, the older people's luncheon club and the council's Neighbourhood Team.