

Keeping warm & fuel poverty

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Climate Change Commitments for the Council

❑ Tackle Fuel Poverty is one of the Council's key environmental priorities

Tackling Fuel Poverty:

Reducing the number of fuel poor residents and tackle inequality.

Supporting vulnerable people to keep their houses warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Delivering better insulated and energy efficient properties and reducing energy bills.



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Fuel poverty in RBKC

- ❑ A household is in fuel poverty if they cannot afford to adequately heat their home as a result of low income and high energy costs.
- ❑ The latest fuel poverty statistics for 2018 estimate that 12.4% or 10,208 residents in RBKC are in or at risk of fuel poverty. This figure is higher than in neighbouring boroughs and the London overall figure of 11.4%.

Why Fuel Poverty matters:

- Those at risk of fuel poverty are frequently the most vulnerable in society, the elderly, families with young children, those living with long term health conditions and on low incomes.
- Living in a cold home can contribute to a number of long term and potentially life-threatening conditions, damage the life chances of children and teenagers and deepen inequalities.
- Increased risk of heart attacks and strokes via rising blood pressure; causing or worsening respiratory problems and asthma, arthritic and rheumatic conditions and increase the risk of falls.
- The impacts of living in a cold home are not just physical but can also affect mental health and wellbeing.
- Adolescents are at higher risk of multiple mental disorders with poorer outcomes and children of school age are at risk of lower educational achievement through illness related absence.

Fuel poverty programmes

As a council we have been assisting residents in fuel poverty through different programmes, such as:

- **The Healthy Homes Project**, offering assistance through grants and information to improve heating and insulation in private residences.
- **Homes4Health:** Delivered free home energy / Green Doctor visits, energy and switching advice to all tenure vulnerable residents and installed small and large energy efficiency measures and Warm and Cooling Packs; and organise training for frontline staff.
- The Council has not acted alone but in partnership with other boroughs, the NHS, third sector health and community organisations and residents.
- Create effective partnership with health and community organisations to build strong referral frameworks.
- Apply for governmental funds and develop a holistic Healthy Homes programme with seasonal interventions.
- Promote national and local grant schemes to actively encourage residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Homes4Health fuel poverty scheme

- The Homes4Health fuel poverty programme provides free home energy support to residents in RBKC to help them keep warm and to save money on their energy bills and improve their health.
- The Council is working with Groundwork to provide FREE telephone consultations as a response to the Coronavirus epidemic.

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/free-home-energy-service-homes4health>

- This is available for free for all RBKC households if they meet the following criteria: over 65 or are on a low income or if they have a long term health condition or disability.
- The telephone consultation is carried out by independent trained energy advisors called Green Doctors who are part of Groundwork's team.



Homes4Health fuel poverty scheme

- Green Doctors can assist you online and on the phone if you are self-isolating or reducing social contact during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Residents receive a free home energy consultation over the phone to help you maintain a healthy and comfortable home and save money. Green Doctors can offer expert advice on energy bills and tariffs and help you to access all the financial support you are entitled to at this difficult time.



Green Doctors

Free 1:1 energy advice over the phone during Coronavirus pandemic

With more people at home due to COVID-19, and many people losing their jobs, energy bills might be harder to manage. The Homes4Health telephone consultation has been developed to help during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Council is working with the environmental charity Groundwork to provide free phone consultations to support residents to get on top of energy debt, switch provider, access grant and other support, and manage energy use in the home.

The telephone consultation is available and free for all households (all tenure type) that meet the following criteria (in the same way as the home energy visits):

- - if you are over 65, or
- - are on a low income, or
- - have a long term health condition or disability

The telephone consultation is carried out by independent trained energy advisors called Green Doctors who are part of Groundwork London.



Struggling with your energy bills?



We can help

Your local energy experts - the Green Doctors - are offering phone consultations to help you save money and stay out of debt.

This consultation is provided by a registered charity for anyone on a low income or over 65 or with a long term health condition or disability.

Your Green Doctor will help you

- Save money on your energy bills
- Switch energy providers to save you money
- Access the Warm Homes Discounts
- Apply for grants for energy or water debt
- Get additional support

Book a phone consultation or refer someone else!

 0300 365 5003  greendoctors-london.org



Green Doctors are part of Groundwork London, a registered charity No. 1121105

*There is no charge for this service
Even your phone call is free!*



How to book a telephone consultation/make a referral?

To book a free telephone consultation with one of the Green Doctors, either phone Groundwork's freephone number **0300 365 3005** or fill in their form online:

<https://groundwork.secure.force.com/enquiry/>.

For any other information please contact:

GreenDoctorsLDN@groundwork.org.uk.

Events & Training available for frontline staff:

Groundwork London is now hosting regular, free online training sessions where you can find out more about the Green Doctors service and the support available for residents.

The webinar will cover:

How the free telephone consultations work.

Who could benefit from the service & how to refer people

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-help-people-struggling-with-their-energy-bills-during-covid-19-tickets-103211548520>



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Thank you! Let's work together!
Any questions?

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Green Homes Grant
&
Healthier Homes

Justine.Dornan@rbkc.gov.uk

Voucher Scheme

- Administered through Simple Energy Advice
- www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk
- Voucher for up to 2/3 cost of hiring accredited tradespeople to upgrade the energy performance of your property
- Voucher up to £5,000 on top of your contribution of £1,650

Measures

- Primary
- Insulation, Solid wall, cavity wall, under floor, flat roof.
- Low carbon heat, air source heat pump, solar thermal or biomass boilers
- Secondary
- Draught proofing
- Double/triple glazing, secondary glazing
- Energy efficient doors
- Hot water tank insulation and thermostats
- Heating controls

- Recently extended the deadline

Works must be completed by **31st March 2022**

Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery

- Cannot be combined with the voucher scheme.
- Maximum £5,000 with £1650 contribution
- Property needs to be E,F or G rated
- Residents household income less than £30,000 pa.
- These requirements may change in the second phase

- Is available to landlords with F&G rated properties to help meet Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards
- No primary and secondary measures.
- Local Authority will organise works and contractors
- Details will be on the RBKC website when available.

Healthier Homes

Grants available to assist with heating installation and repairs for residents on benefits and low income.

Emergency heating

Enforcement

Healthier Homes

- Please contact Justine.dornan@rbkc.gov.uk
- 020 7341 5247
- Or
- Environmental Health Line
- 020 7261 3002