

News Release

Need help to stay warm this winter?

As the temperature falls and energy bills rise more people in Lincolnshire are set to face fuel poverty.

When keeping warm through the winter becomes a real concern to those on a low income **Responders to Warmth** may be able to help.

Responders to Warmth is available to anyone on a state benefit, or those with a chronic or acute health difficulty, as verified by a professional. It also supports voluntary sector groups in delivering warmth-related services locally. The services on offer include:

- Loft and cavity wall insulation
- Boiler repair or replacement
- Heating and hot water adaptation
- Warmth related handy- person
- Energy and tariff advice

Lincolnshire has more than 70,000 households suffering fuel poverty and the subsequent misery of cold, damp homes due to under heating could lead to ill health. Fuel poverty is when occupant needs to spend more than ten per cent of their income on energy bills.

With recent energy price hikes, it is likely another 2,000 Lincolnshire homes will struggle to keep warm this winter. This is the equivalent of six small Lincolnshire villages.

Cllr Paul Howitt-Cowan said: "West Lindsey District Council, as part of the Home Energy Lincolnshire Partnership, is keen to let our residents know about the Responders to Warmth scheme that may help them to keep warm this winter. Responders to Warmth provide support to people suffering ill

health or who are in receipt of certain benefits to help them keep warm and safe over the winter period.”

Responders to Warmth offers a range of services from warmth-related handy-persons, heating and hot water repairs and adaptations, free insulation, warming meals, blankets and portable heaters through to hot-water bottles, warm clothing and even sleeping bags.

An elderly pensioner who suffered with a range of health problems said **Responders to Warmth** were “prompt, efficient, polite, friendly and above all else the bungalow is more like a home than living in sometimes Arctic-like conditions”.

Housing tenure exclusions apply and there is a combined annual household income limit and savings limit in operation. In some instances clients may be asked for a contribution towards measures.

If you fit the eligibility criteria and need assistance in keeping warm this winter please contact **Responders to Warmth** on 0845 606 4566.

If you work for a voluntary agency Responders would love to hear from you too.

Further details are available at <http://www.responderstowarmth.co.uk/> or email the scheme direct at admin@responderstowarmth.co.uk

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For further information contact:

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