

25 June 2022 Webinar

Supporting Social Prescribing clients with fuel poverty in London

Part 2



SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON



Bromley by Bow Centre

BbBC Social Prescribing Team & Energy Advice projects working together to support clients



BbBC Energy Advice Projects

• East End Energy Fit Project

-A pan London project supporting people around their energy issues, for example, energy debt, incorrect billing, application for white goods and financial assistant schemes

• Empower You Too

- Community development project which aims to alleviate fuel poverty through training up community members to become Energy Champions

- Deliver workshops to community groups, service users of organisations in and around Tower Hamlets

- 1:1 support on energy related matters

BbBC Social Prescribing

- BBBC Social prescribing service
- Client presenting needs
- Energy landscape post Covid
- Integrated working on energy issues (PCN, BBBC teams, THCAN)
- Specialist SP roles in welfare
- BBBC Energy advisor/SP Link Worker case study

Financial capability and Energy Information



Green Doctors Groundwork London

Carolina Castilla Penna Senior Outreach Officer <u>Green Doctors Team</u>



Green Doctors

Part of the community charity, Groundwork London, *Green Doctors* are a team of expert energy advisers. For 16 years the *Green Doctors* have been helping households in London save money, stay warm and improve energy efficiency at home.

We work in partnership with London Boroughs, Housing Associations, Social Prescribers Link Workers Teams and other organisations to deliver **free phone consultations/home visits** where we *give advice on utility bills and provide referrals to further services to improve health and well-being of residents.*





The Green Doctor Service is available in the following areas*:

Brent, Barnet, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark and Westminster.

Camden: only council tenants.

*Updated June 2022



Green Doctors: Our aims

Improve health and reduce the impacts of cold homes

Service user income maximisation

Enable behavioural change and taking action



Health Implications of cold homes

- Increased risk of heart attack and stroke
- Higher blood pressure
- Increased risk of COPD, Asthma, and respiratory infections
- Worsening arthritis
- Falls and other accidents
- Excess winter deaths



Other impacts

- Households have to make tough decisions about where to spend their income, e.g. choosing between heating and eating
- 'Stress and anxiety about unaffordable fuel bills
- Social isolation less willing to invite friends and family to home
- Children struggling to complete homework



Green Doctors

At the moment we are delivering a hybrid model of home visit or phone consultation .During energy consultation, the Green Doctor will help residents to:

- Personalised advice on energy bills- for example, help to understand confusing/incorrect bills
- Energy saving tips, encouraging behavioral change
- Financial help:

Supporting residents applying to discounts or other benefits they may be entitled to: *Warm Home Discount (£ 150 on-off payment electricity bill) *Water Help (50 % discount on water bill) *Water Sure (to cap the water bill)

• **Priority Service Register**- a free utility support service to help people in vulnerable situations

• Explain the benefits of **smart meters**, and how can help residents to keep a closer eye on their energy use.





What advice is available?

- Fuel debt management Providing energy and water **debt advice** and supporting residents to **access grants**
- Help to apply to larger grants to improve home and heating efficiency (eg, boiler replacement, insulations, etc)
- Help to apply for white goods.
- Delivering/installing free energy-saving items such as draft proofing strips/LED light bulbs/radiators panels, etc
- Signposting to other services for additional support with local organisations



Green Doctors

Eligibility Criteria

- Fuel poor, on a low income (under £ 15,900) or in receipt of any means tested benefits); and/or:
- With a long term health condition (such as respiratory/ circulatory disease or mental health condition)
- People with a disability
- Older people (65 and over)
- Households with children under 5



How to make a referal to the Green Doctors:

- Complete this online form: <u>https://groundwork.secure.force.com/enquiry/</u>
- Phone: 0300 365 3005 (Freephone number)
- or email: greendoctorsldn@groundwork.org.uk
- For more information visit: <u>https://london.greendoctors.org.uk/</u>

We accept self-referrals



The consultation in a nutshell:

- The calls/visits are booked in advance
- The call will last between 45 60 minutes, depending on the particular energy needs. The home visits will last around 90 minutes.
- The consultations are **absolutely free** to the resident.
- During the consultation, the Green Doctor will also ask some questions about the age of your boiler and if any repairs in the home are required
- After the consultation and depending on the residents needs, the Green Doctor will arrange a drop off/install of small energy saving measures that could save energy around the home.



Fuel prices will inevitably increase, even with interventions, and we need to be prepare for this. Some points you can share with your clients to avoid fuel debt:

- Improve the energy efficiency of your home, check if you are eligible for any grant or discounts
- Check that you are claiming all of the benefits you are entitled to
- If you are unable to pay your bill, contact your supplier and let them know
- Provide your supplier with a monthly meter reading to ensure you receive an accurate bill



We can attend your team meetings, or we can organise a bespoke session for your team/organisation. We can offer as well face-to face or online sessions aimed at residents or join any of your current activities.

For more information get in touch:

Carolina Castilla Penna Senior Outreach Officer Green Doctors Team



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Questions

...to the presenters!

Bromley by Bow Centre Unleashing Healthy Communities

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