

GROUNDWORK

CHANGING PLACES CHANGING LIVES





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Groundwork and The Green Doctors

- Who we are and what we do?
- The inevitability of growing demand
- Case studies
- Common problems and answers?
- The impact of cold and damp on health inequalities

Groundwork and The Green Doctors

- Groundwork – we are a Federation of charitable trusts founded in 1982
- Thousands of diverse, locally-led projects each year
- Community focused action
 - Improving green space
 - Getting people back into work
 - Create green jobs
 - Youth Programmes
- **The Green Doctor programme started in 2006**

Groundwork: Why Green Doctors?

- Increasing energy-efficiency
- Promoting the health & wellbeing of vulnerable people
- Promote independent living and provide extra support for those most vulnerable in society
- Offer a 'holistic' fuel poverty reduction service
- Aim of reducing fuel poverty/Excess Winter Deaths

GREEN DOCTORS IN 2020/21....

...the Green Doctor energy advice service
has saved households across the North of
England:



£74,274

from tariff switches



£118,050

from the Warm Homes Discount

£169,927

in emergency top ups
distributed

5,894



Households provided with
energy advice

Savings from water
advice

£18,391



931

Frontline workers trained

FREE PHONE 0808 1683547

Changes in 2021/22

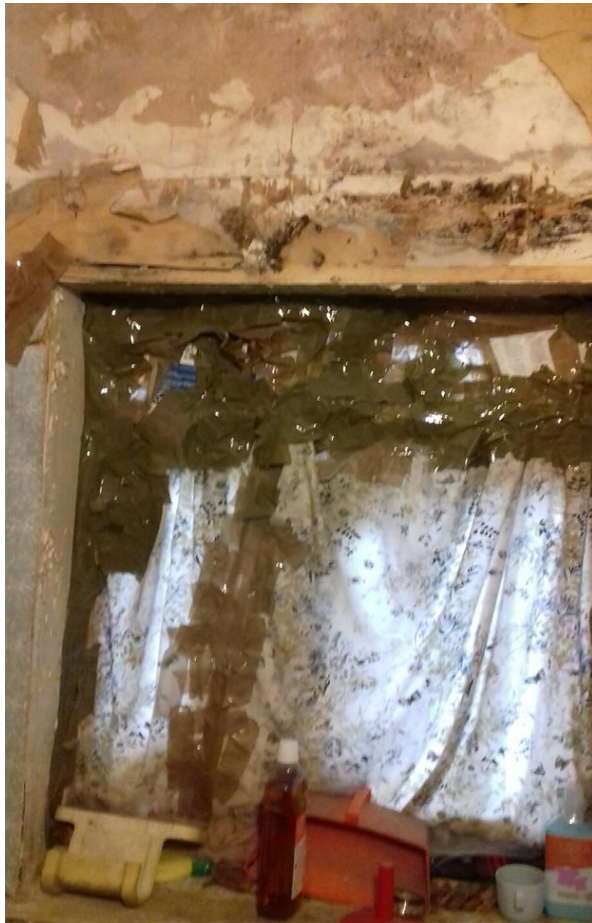
- Advised 31% of households on water and energy meters
- Provided 14% of households with energy, water and other debt advice
- Helped 11% complete Priority Services Registration applications
- Facilitated 690 Leeds Welfare Support payments (£38,267) and 1,168 emergency fuel top-up vouchers (£53,102)

Changes since April 2022

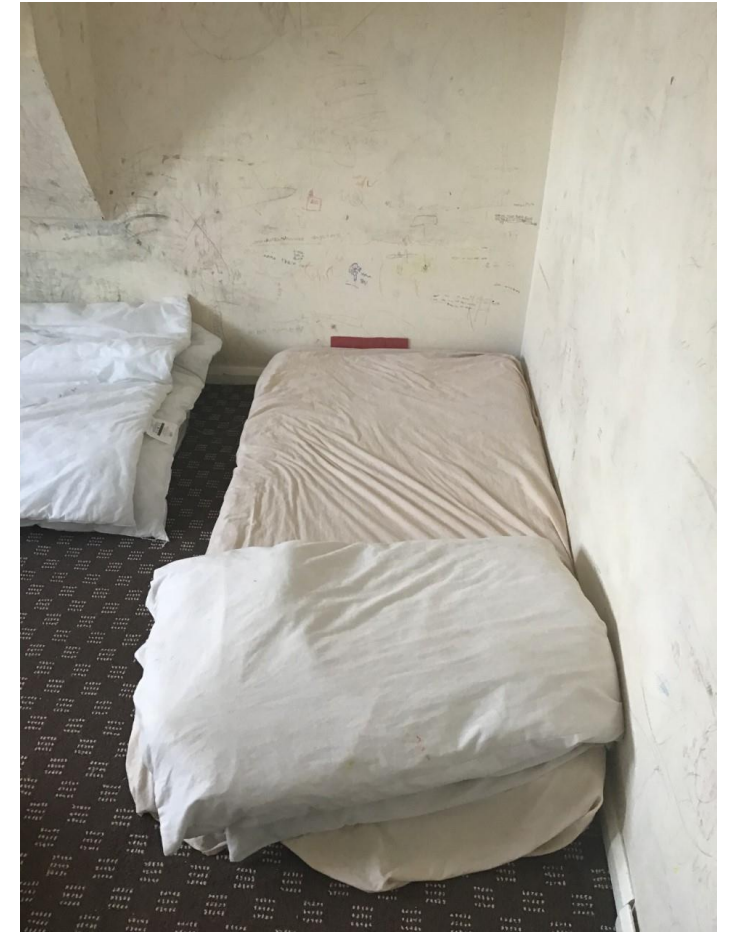
Emergency payments processed per week

- w/c 21.03.22 - 26
- w/c 04.04.22 -64
- Established average per week – 60-80

What Vulnerability Looks Like









The importance of energy advice

Expert energy advice helps increase energy-efficiency, reduce levels of fuel poverty and improve health & wellbeing.

- By phone and in person
- We support behaviour change



Visit Checklist

- **Energy costs and supply**
 - Who is the supplier, Which tariff are they on?
 - How do they pay
 - Pre-payment meters or Credit meter
 - Significant difference between online billing with a Direct Debit compared to paper billing
 - What is their usage?
 - Important indicator of how the house is being heated
 - Smart Meters
 - Invaluable for helping raise awareness of usage in the home
 - Provide accurate readings
- **Quality of dwelling**
 - State of repair
 - Damp – Rising, penetrating or behavioural
 - Leaks – central heating, waste pipes, mains water
 - Drafts – Windows, doors, pointing, service holes
 - Age of Appliances
 - Boiler - Efficiency levels
 - Fridge, Freezer etc – Energy consumption variation
 - EPC
 - What insulation is present – Can more be added?
 - Appropriate heating system



Visit Checklist Continued

- **Stability of household income**
 - Debts – Energy or otherwise, Financial situation, Income. Benefits
- **Poor health/Age/culture**
 - Can determine internal temperature of house
- **Social relations in and out of household**
 - Household size, demographic, dependents
 - Support network
- **Tenancy relations**
 - Private landlords, Council, Owner occupied
 - Can measures be installed without consent
 - What schemes are available in that area?
- What “**choices**” does the tenant/customer make?
- **Behaviour Change** - enable change through education and understanding
 - Finding the best way of engagement to encourage good changes
 - Financial
 - Environmental
 - Health



Cold Facts

- 16.8% of people in Yorkshire live in Fuel Poverty – this will increase to well over 20%
- A 1°C drop in living-room temperature results in a rise in blood pressure amongst those aged 65-74
- Being unable to keep warm at home and being in fuel debt have been identified as independent predictors of Common Mental Disorder (CMD)
- Increased levels of clotting molecules in the blood during the winter months accounts for a 9-15% rise in coronary heart disease
- The Energy Savings Trust stated that around a third of the UK population report that they have mould in their homes i.e., over 8 million properties and 20 million people
- Being cold at home has also been independently and significantly associated with the likelihood of a young person suffering four or more negative mental health outcomes i.e. depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, OCD
- Treating people who live in cold homes with cold impacted illnesses cost the NHS more than £2bn per year

Case Study: Mr Eldridge

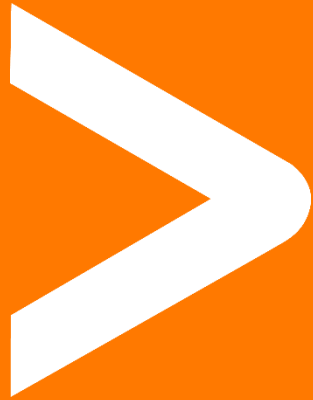
- Isolated 71 year old man, with mobility issues and cardiovascular disease.
- Referred via British Red Cross
- Saved him £750 annually on his energy bills.
- Warm for longer
- Better quality of life – more disposable income
- Happier!



The Green Doctor in West Yorkshire

- In partnership with Care and Repair, Age UK, Hale, Innchurches
- Funded by LCC, BMDC, energy companies and supplier networks
- West Yorkshire Winter Warmth Funding
- **In Leeds in 2021/22** 48% of our referrals came from Occupational Therapists; 17% had a defined mental health condition; 9% suffered from asthma or COPD; 15% suffered from heart and circulation conditions; 25% had muscle, joint and bone disorders.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/services/green-doctor/>



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