



# Media Release

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## **FREE HOME INSULATION**

**WHEN** the weather is wet and cold, we all want to hurry home to a warm and welcoming house. But for people on benefits keeping their homes warm is often a difficult financial balancing trick.

And when there isn't much money around, thinking about loft and wall insulation to help retain heat and save energy probably comes low down the list. But help is at hand via Harrogate Borough Council's Keep Warm and Healthy scheme, which offers free insulation to any resident in the district on income or disability benefits.

Harrogate Borough Council has provided funding of £50,000, which has been combined with money supplied by energy companies as part of their statutory energy efficiency commitment and linking in to the government's Warmfront initiative.

They have also teamed up with the not for profit Energy Efficiency Advice Centre for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding to provide a one stop freephone advice line.

Councillor Jean Butterfield, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "Being on benefits shouldn't be a barrier to being warm. That is why we have created this fund to make sure that those vulnerable households have the chance to get help to make sure their homes are as warm and as energy efficient as possible, which will also protect the environment. We are also currently writing to all households who receive benefit to identify those that don't have central heating. It may be possible to use this fund to help them put in an efficient heating system. I would urge anyone who is in receipt of benefits to telephone the help line. Even if they have insulation and central heating, there may be other ways in which we can help."

Councillor Butterfield added that the council is also helping households who are able to pay for loft and cavity wall insulation by negotiating some excellent discounted costs for them. The Keep Warm and Healthy scheme can offer standard sized properties a unique price of £109 for cavity wall and £109 for loft insulation.

Anyone interested in the free offer or the discounted scheme, should telephone the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on freephone 0800 512 012.  
ENDS

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Councillor Jean Butterfield is available for comment on 01423 770381. Further technical information is available from Andrew Ellis, Home Energy Conservation Officer on 01423 556802.