



City of Doncaster Council

HEALTHY HOMES IN DONCASTER: A JOINED UP APPROACH

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INTRODUCTION

The Healthy Homes programme at City of Doncaster Council focuses on strengthening health and housing by working **across services with local partners**. It brings together **public health, housing, sustainability, planning, communications** and **communities teams** to reduce health inequalities and to support residents across Doncaster to live in **safer, healthier homes**.

Healthy Homes Hub

Our Healthy Homes programme increases **skills and knowledge** of our **residents and local workforce** including the voluntary and community sector in relation to health and housing. We collaborate with our **communications team and communities team** to achieve this.

Healthy Home Checklists

We created **simple checklists** to help people identify unhealthy home conditions. These are aimed at both **residents and communities staff**.

The image shows three checklists: 'Healthy Homes Checklist', 'Healthy Homes Hoarding Checklist', and 'Healthy Homes Preparing for Summer Checklist'. Each checklist includes sections for 'WHAT IS HOARDING?', 'HOW CAN HOARDING AFFECT HEALTH?', 'WHO IS MOST SENSITIVE TO THE EFFECTS OF HOARDING?', 'SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF HOARDING', 'PRACTICAL STEPS', and 'HELP AND SUPPORT'. The 'Preparing for Summer Checklist' includes sections for 'WHAT IS OVERHEATING?', 'HOW CAN OVERHEATING AFFECT HEALTH?', 'WHO IS MOST SENSITIVE TO THE EFFECTS OF OVERHEATING?', 'PRACTICAL STEPS', and 'TIPS TO PREPARING YOUR HOME'.

Communications

To reach the widest audience, we work closely with our **communications team**, who develop tailored plans to identify **key messages** and the most effective channels to promote them.



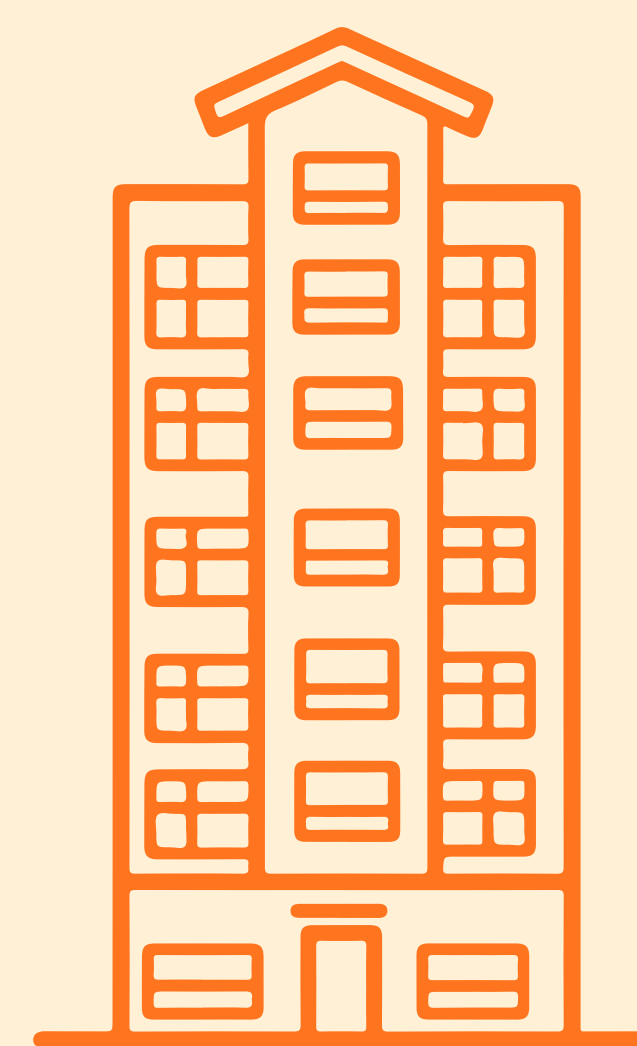
Training

As part of our healthy homes offer, we provide two annual training sessions for our **local workforce**: **'Winter Warmth'** and **'Improving Health Through the Home'**.

The image shows two training materials. 'What is Indoor Air Quality?' includes a diagram of a house with 'Indoor Air Quality' text, stating '90% of our lives spent indoors' and '2-5x More pollution indoors than outdoors'. It lists factors like Temperature, Humidity, Ventilation, and Presence of pollutants. 'Preparing For Winter Assessment' includes a table for 'Household Most at Risk' and a 'Spotting Cooling Strategies' section.

Private Rental Sector

City of Doncaster Council is increasing its focus on public health in the private rented sector through the development of a Health Needs Assessment to address **housing-related health risks** in the sector, informed by a public health literature review. The work includes **focus groups** with landlords and residents and is being delivered in partnership with the **Sustainable Homes** and **Strategic Housing** teams to inform future action and improve health outcomes for private renters.



Spatial Planning

Public Health and planning work together to create **healthy environments**. Our planning policy requires certain development proposals to be assessed using a **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** screening tool to ensure health is embedded in the planning process. Where needed, developers must complete a HIA and show how they have addressed its findings. Where a HIA is not required, Public Health still provides comments on planning applications.

Public Health Comments

Internal Design: We review floor plans to assess factors such as **indoor air quality, natural light, space and storage**, which have proven impacts on physical and mental health.

Green Space: We assess landscaping plans to consider the **quality and usability of green spaces**, recognising their role in supporting wellbeing, social interaction and outdoor activity.

Location: We consider how the location of a development impacts health, including **access to services**, opportunities for **active travel** and potential noise impacts, recommending measures such as cycle storage or noise mitigation where appropriate.

Affordable Warmth

The Affordable Warmth Programme supports Doncaster's most at-risk residents to live in **warmer, healthier homes**. Delivered by CDC's Public Health team in partnership with the **Sustainability Unit**, the programme was established in 2015 and is primarily delivered through the **Boiler on Prescription** scheme.

Cold Homes and Health

Cold, damp homes are a significant risk to health, particularly for residents living with long-term conditions, disabilities, or complex needs. The programme **contributes to preventing avoidable hospital admissions, enabling safer discharges, and reducing health inequalities** linked to poor housing and fuel poverty.

What the Programme Offers

- Non-emergency **boiler replacements** and heating system repairs
- Low-cost measures to improve **warmth and energy efficiency**
- Energy advice, referrals, and signposting
- Community advice and targeted communications campaigns

Since launch, the programme has delivered over **350 boiler installations**, supporting residents with multiple health and social vulnerabilities.

The image contains testimonials and information about the 'Boiler on Prescription' scheme. Testimonials include: 'The boiler has made the home more comfortable for me and my wife to live in', 'My quality of life has improved and I am more comfortable in my own home', 'One less thing to worry about going into winter', 'Very grateful to everyone involved', 'I really can not put into words how grateful I am to you... I was ashamed to let people see how I was... you have given me hope I might actually start living again', and 'The service received from start to finish has been amazing'. The scheme information includes: 'Broken boiler? Heating not working? No hot water? You could be eligible for the Boiler on Prescription scheme. The scheme provides funding for replacement heating systems or boilers. The scheme is for homeowners on a low-income, with a health condition made worse by a cold home. Apply via webform by scanning the QR code or Email: energy.team@doncaster.gov.uk Phone: 01302 737053. What happens after I apply? A member of the council's Sustainability Unit will be in touch to discuss your application and potentially arrange a home visit.'