

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/301

Cold Homes

Request details

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act to request information from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board on the following:

1. Does the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board have a strategy in place to address the health consequences of cold homes, as recommended by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance on Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes (NG6)?
2. Has the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board commissioned a single-point-of-contact health and housing referral service to help vulnerable people who live in cold homes, as recommended by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance on Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes (NG6)?

Response details

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) is a partner in the Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board (RPB) which includes local authority, housing provider and third sector representatives.

The role of the RPB is to develop and deliver a joint plan to address identified priorities for health, social care and housing drawn from a population needs assessment.

In relation to ensuring people have access to the accommodation they need and that homes provide a safe environment, we work through the RPB with the two local authorities and housing providers.

Cardiff Council created a single point of contact in 2014. This service was developed in partnership with the Health Board and is supported by the partnership with funding from the intermediate care fund.

The service aimed at all adults to support their wellbeing, to live healthy independent lives, The service is accessible via many points, and also has staff working within the UHB, in addition to offering a home visiting element. One of the many aspects of this service is to offer advice on keeping safe, warm and secure. We work with energy companies, charitable organisations to enable access to keep warm initiatives. In addition, we offer interest-free loans to people whose property may have fallen into disrepair, and need replace roof/windows etc. The loan is recovered when the property is sold or changes hands, to ensure the most vulnerable are not financially disadvantaged to keep warm and safe, in their homes, we will also work with people to maximise their income which enables them to manage bills and life style better. Similar arrangements are in place in the Vale of Glamorgan.