



Cadent
Your Gas Network

Northern Gas Networks

SGN
Your gas, our network.

WALES & WEST
WATKINS

Benefits Check and Income Maximisation

Thank you for making a referral into National Energy Action's Warm Homes, Healthy Futures service.

You are making a referral for **Benefit Checks and Income Maximisation**.

This document provides you with some information and guidance when referring a client or patient into the service. It provides you with information about how to make the referral, what the person you are referring can expect, and what topics and issues they might be helped with.

If you need further support or information, please contact Danielle Butler, Project Development Manager, at danielle.butler@nea.org.uk.

What is the Warm Homes, Healthy Futures programme?

Fuel poverty is hurting millions of people across the UK. Made worse by the cost-of-living and energy crises, people are finding themselves locked in difficult decisions around budgeting for essentials like energy and food.

This is resulting in people underheating their homes in colder periods, going without essentials, and mounting household and energy debt. All of which has serious but avoidable impacts on physical and mental health.

The Warm Homes, Healthy Futures programme is being delivered in your area to support people who are living with a health condition or disability that is made worse by living in a cold, damp, or poor quality home. It connects health sector partners and other trusted services in local communities to energy advice and support that is delivered 'on prescription' by completing this referral form.

The service can support people with:

- Energy advice and support with issues around affordability, access, billing, and more.
- Benefit checks, income maximisation, and debt support.
- Energy efficiency advice and information and support on accessing grants and schemes.
- Access to crisis support, such as fuel vouchers and winter warmth packs.
- Signposting and information on repair and replacement schemes for heating systems (e.g. boilers) and appliances.
- Servicing of boilers, heating systems and appliances.



Resources

National Energy Action have been supporting people living in fuel poverty for more than 40 years. As well as referring into this service, you can also access a wealth of resources on our website at www.nea.org.uk including:

- Access to webinars
- Articles
- Guidance
- Home Energy Checklist
- How-to leaflets
- Damp and condensation advice

Making a referral

Energy Advice – managing expectations

As this is a referral for a benefit check and income maximisation advice, your client will have already received or is receiving energy advice. We will not provide energy advice and support as part of this referral.

Once you have made the referral, we will aim to get in touch by telephone as soon as possible.

We will try to contact the person three times by telephone and email, and will send an SMS text message after each attempt to contact. We will then send a letter if we have not been able to reach them to check if they still would like support.

Providing additional supporting information

The online referral form has an open-text box so you can provide additional detail that might be relevant to the referral. For example, you might want to let us know if your client has already received advice and if any other referrals have been made (i.e., for top vouchers, broader debt support, wellbeing support etc.)

Please feel free to add any information about the client with their permission that you think will be useful for the advisors.

Telephone referrals

If you can't complete the online referral form or would prefer to make the referral by telephone, you can call us on **0808 164 0107**.

We cannot accept referrals by telephone from the client/patient directly, so please do not share this number. Only referral partners can make a referral using this telephone number.

