

Impact Case Study: Tackling Fuel Poverty on the Lakes Estate

How did Jeanette get involved?

Jeanette Marling, Chair of the Lakes Residents Association in the Lakes Estate, heard about the Our MK funding via a Community Action: MK email and recognised the opportunity to focus on energy in the Lakes Estate. Jeanette was aware that many of the properties on the Lakes Estate were not in a good condition and were often difficult to heat, leading to **fuel poverty**. The poor conditions of many of the properties also negatively impacted the health of residents on the Lakes Estate through mould and drafts in the property. Jeannette applied to Our MK to purchase **blankets** for children and vulnerable adults on the estate to help them combat the cold and reduce their heating bills.



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Tackling Fuel Poverty on the Lakes Estate



What did the project do?

The Lakes Residents Association was awarded **£1000** to purchase blankets for the residents of **Serpentine Court**, an area on the Lakes Estate which is severely affected by fuel poverty. The project also aimed to **gather data** from residents by survey to find out about their energy use, their access to the internet and how the property impacted their health. This information would help the Residents Association assess whether there were any further opportunities to assist residents getting out of fuel poverty.

An **energy event** was held in the Spotlight Community Centre on 19 April 2017 where Serpentine Court residents could come and collect their blankets and fill out the survey. It was also an opportunity for residents to find out about saving energy and receive free LED light bulbs from MK Council.



What added value did Our MK bring to the project?

- **Community Engagement**

By working with Our MK, the Lakes Residents Association was able to reach more people with their survey

- **Event organisation**

The team from Our MK was able to assist in organising the energy event and getting other organisations involved

- **Project support**

Our MK met regularly on the Lakes Estate to assist the project in moving forward and purchasing the blankets

How will Jeanette's project continue?

The Lakes Residents Association will continue to give out the rest of the blankets that were purchased to residents in Serpentine Court and other vulnerable residents. They will also continue to collect information from residents about how they can improve services and assist residents in avoiding fuel poverty.

With the Lakes Estate chosen as one of the regeneration areas of Milton Keynes, the Residents Association will focus on short term solutions to tackling fuel poverty.

Support timeline

Date	Objectives	Met with
09/02/17	First project meeting to sign contract	JM
07/03/17	Project meeting	JM
14/03/17	Project meeting	JM
21/03/17	Project meeting	JM
28/03/17	Project meeting	JM
03/04/17	Door knocking with survey	JM/AKD
05/04/17	Door knocking with survey	JM/AKD
19/04/17	Energy event at Spotlight Community Centre	ALL
01/06/17	Promotion of app at the Our MK Finale Event	ALL
06/06/17	Final interview for project	ALL