

# **The Winter Health Strategy:**

## **History, progress and the next two years**

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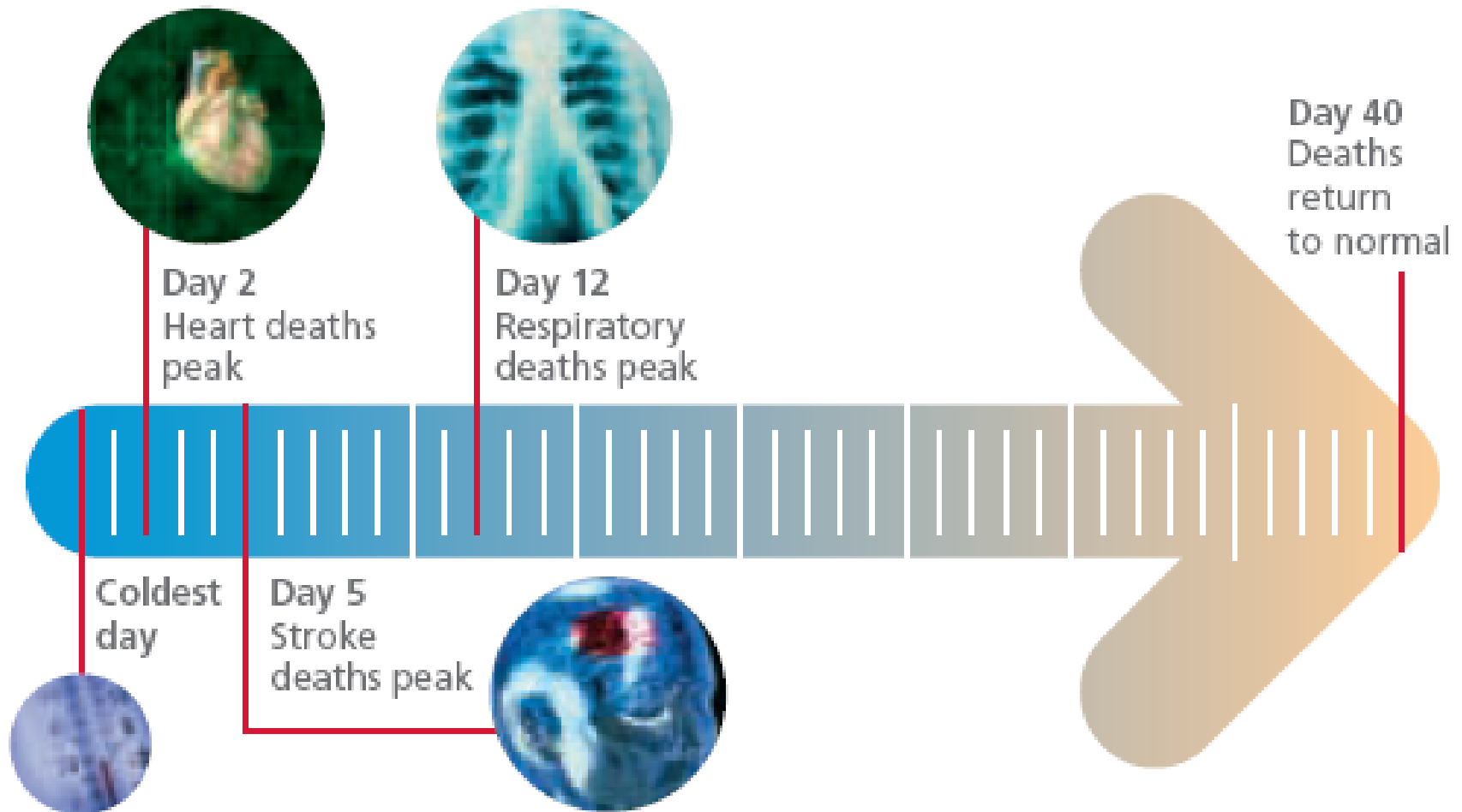
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Chair of the Winter Health Partnership

# North Yorkshire Winter Health Update

- Update on the latest data
- Overview of the winter health strategy
- Update on progress made

# Cold Weather Impact on Health

## Box 3: Cold weather death sequence



Source: Adapted from Donaldson GC, Keatinge WR. Early increases in ischaemic heart disease mortality dissociated from and later changes associated with respiratory mortality after cold weather in south east England. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 1997; 51(6): 643–8

# What are the impacts of living in a cold home?



Children living in cold homes are more than twice as likely to suffer from a variety of respiratory problems as children living in warm homes.

**1/4**

Mental health is negatively affected by fuel poverty and cold housing for any age group. More than 1 in 4 adolescents living in cold housing are at risk of multiple mental health problems.



Mobility and falls  
Cold homes affect mobility and increase falls and non-intentional injuries. In cold homes, symptoms of arthritis become worse and strength and dexterity decreases, increasing the risk of falls in the elderly.



Other indirect effects include a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and a wider effect on wellbeing and life opportunities.<sup>8</sup>

# Fuel Poverty in North Yorkshire



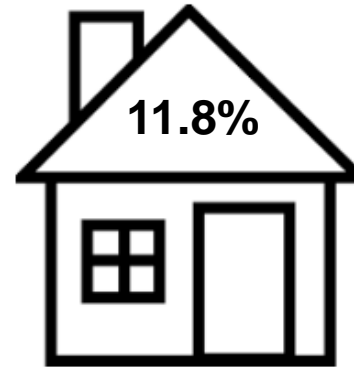
Those in employment in North Yorkshire earn less a week than the England average (2017)

10.1%

26,600 households live in fuel poverty (2016)



73.6% of eligible adults aged 65 and over have received the flu vaccine (2017/18)



22,800 households are workless (2017)

There have been

244

excess winter deaths in North Yorkshire in 2015/16

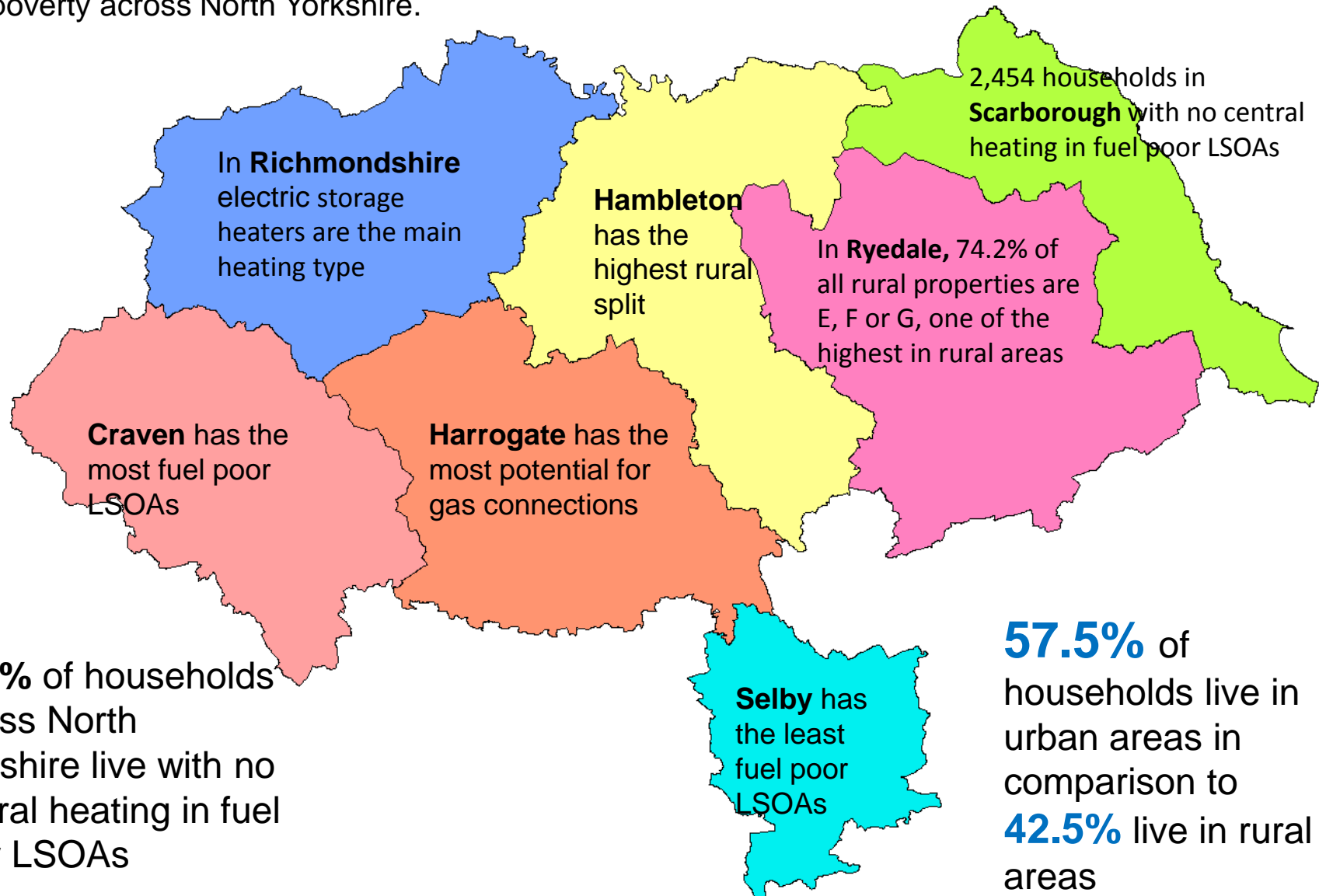
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Winter Fuel Payment

Ryedale district has the highest proportion of households receiving winter fuel payments (43% of households) (2016/17)

# Recent Study

YES Energy Solutions recently carried out a study commissioned by the Citizens Advice Mid- North Yorkshire to identify householders with no central heating facilities that are most likely to be living in fuel poverty across North Yorkshire.



# Who is fuel poor?

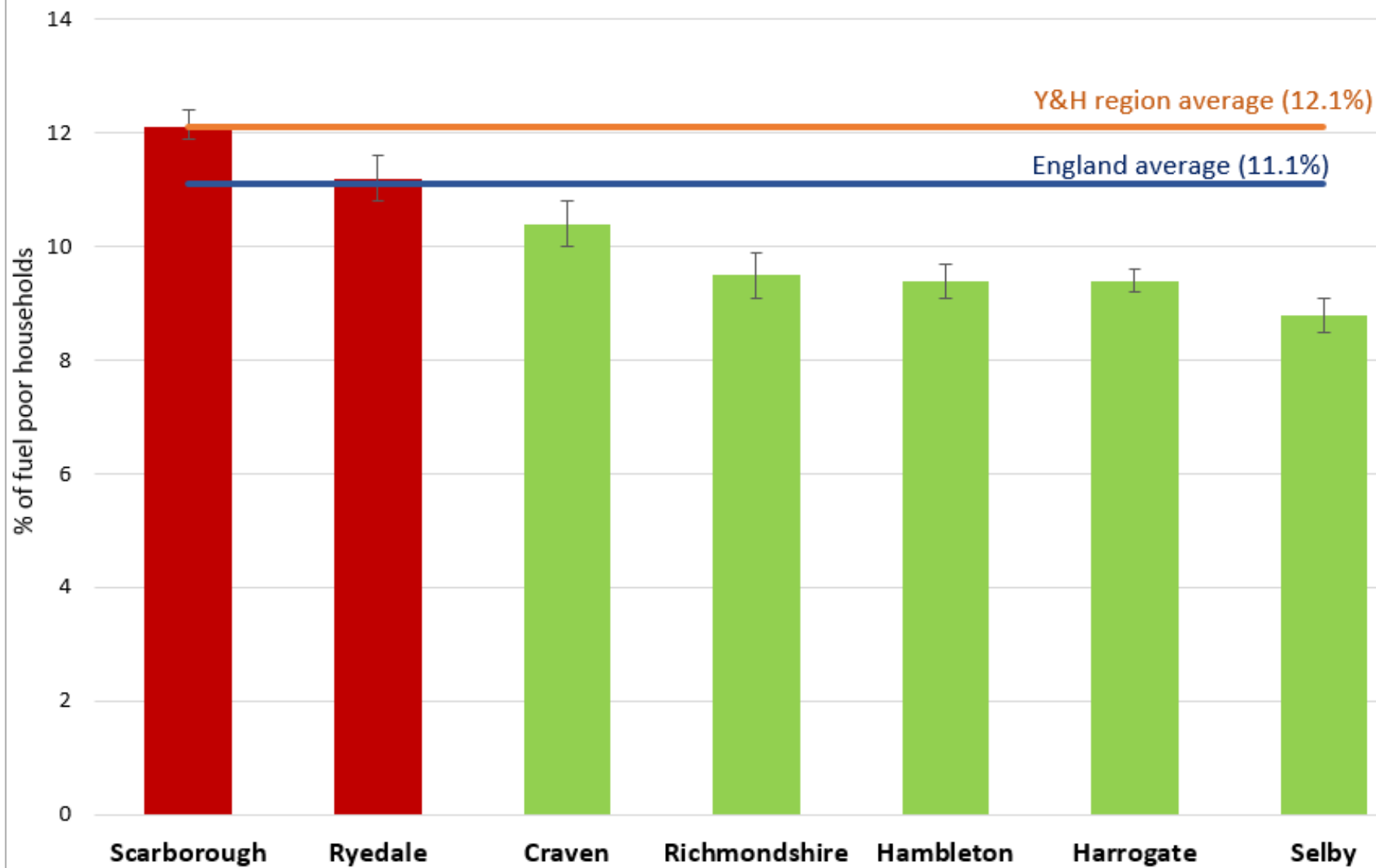
Fuel poor	Characteristic	Non fuel poor
75%	Live in pre 1965 dwellings	54%
38%	Live in private rented accommodation	17%
42%	Owner occupied	66%
27%	Unemployed or other inactive	9%
77%	Decile 1 or 2 income	13%

2015 Annual fuel poverty statistics 2017. Source:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/639118/Fuel\\_Poverty\\_Statistics\\_Report\\_2017\\_revised\\_August.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/639118/Fuel_Poverty_Statistics_Report_2017_revised_August.pdf)

## Fuel Poor Households by District - 2016

Source: Sub-regional fuel poverty statistics 2016, DECC







# North Yorkshire Winter Health Strategy 2015-20

“We will improve and maintain health during winter months and prevent avoidable ill health and excess winter deaths by working together to reduce fuel poverty and the adverse health effects of cold weather for individuals, families and communities in North Yorkshire”.

# Priority one: General awareness raising

The partnership has:

- Established a single point of contact (SPOC) for people living in cold homes
- Delivered communication campaigns raising awareness of cold homes, how to access support and fuel poverty.
- Set up district network meetings to raise awareness of the warm and well programme to encourage agencies to refer into the service
- Worked with landlords and home improvement agencies to increase awareness of fuel poverty
- Commissioned research to increase understanding of local issues, such as off gas homes
- Developed a quarterly newsletter to raise awareness of local activity around warm and well
- Increased uptake of flu vaccination amongst at risk groups

# Priority two: Identifying and supporting the most vulnerable

The partnership has:

- Developed links with stakeholders working with the most vulnerable groups to increase awareness of warm and well e.g. carers resource, dementia services
- Secured funding through a range of sources to provide support to residents to reduce fuel poverty
- Involved service users in developing the warm and well programme
- Developed a network of agencies that can provide support to vulnerable residents around cold homes across North Yorkshire
- Developed a range of innovative ways of reaching vulnerable groups e.g. through the mobile bus, market stalls, working with the fire service



# Priority three: Shared responsibility and making every contact count

The partnership has:

- Increased awareness across North Yorkshire among professionals and others (independent and public sector) to feel confident in giving advice and signposting service users, as well as neighbours, friends and family members
- Increased training and awareness for staff working with vulnerable groups about the link between household temperature and effects on health and wellbeing so that it positively impacts on practice and improves services
- Increased ability to refer individuals to appropriate services to improve their health and wellbeing in winter through the SPOC

# Priority four: Partnership commitment

The partnership has:

- Facilitated stronger partnership working around winter health
- Raised the profile of the importance of joint working around fuel poverty and winter health
- Held three partnership events

# Still to do

- Develop ambitious actions around 5 key areas to reduce excess winter deaths:
  - Improving cold homes and energy efficiency
  - Increase uptake of flu vaccinations
  - Falls prevention
  - NHS winter planning
  - Awareness raising and identifying vulnerable people
- Ongoing promotion of the SPOC and other winter health programmes
- Use feedback from today to develop an action plan for the next two years