

Wales & West Utilities Vulnerability & Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) Registration Form

Information required	Description
Contact Name	Tom Robinson
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Address	Wales & West House, Spooner Close, Celtic Springs, Coedkernew, Newport, NP10 8FZ
Project title	Lower Cynon Pilot
Total VCMA funding required (£k)	£28,150
Problem	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) selected the South Cynon area to run a pilot programme focused on raising the awareness of the dangers of Carbon Monoxide with its occupants. This area was selected due to the high levels of poverty and deprivation and low levels of academic achievement, making accessing information on safety and other issues problematic. The up-to-date Community Insight Report for the Lower Cynon area highlights the position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20,089 occupants - 39% have no qualifications - 29% 0–19-year-olds live in low-income families - 34% 16–74-year-olds in full-time employments only - 1% lack central heating - 33% have no car - Overall crime rate is higher than Wales average - 29% have a limiting long-term illness <p>The Insight Report indicates education, economic and health inequalities exist in the Lower Cynon area. Levels of Child Poverty & Fuel Poverty are particularly striking in the Lower Cynon area compared with the National average.</p>

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	<p>From RCTCBCs own service knowledge, we know Housing Stock in the area is generally of an old construction and poorly ventilated which increases the risks associated with Carbon Monoxide (CO).</p> <p>For many individuals within vulnerable groups such as people with a disability, people unemployed or on low incomes, people who have substance use issues or are in recovery, safety concerns, such as Carbon Monoxide safety awareness, are often not a priority or even considered by those struggling day to day. As such, there is a lack of awareness of CO safety in the Lower Cynon area. In addition, the Christmas & New Year period is often associated with social isolation which increases the risks further as people stay at home more.</p> <p>We believe education and messaging around CO safety will get little attention if delivered in isolation. We intend to integrate CO education and kits into activity that will resonate with individuals through new and existing groups and community activity relevant to an individual's personal circumstance.</p>
<p>Scope and Objectives</p>	<p>Mobilise partners who have built up relationships & have access to vulnerable people in the Lower Cynon area.</p> <p>By utilising RCTCBCs specialist partners, we will ensure that the most vulnerable people in this community are aware of the risks of carbon monoxide and have access to monitors to prevent exposure.</p> <p>Via their Neighbourhood Network in the Lower Cynon, we will train and provide resources to Community Groups and Leaders.</p> <p>Local Community Groups are mostly run by residents themselves and have the trust and access to those hardest to reach</p>

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	<p>through family, friends, and community connections.</p> <p>Local Community groups can often reach residents who are unaware or chose not to engage with more formal support services. Local community groups and the people they support will all benefit.</p> <p>Residents are unlikely to engage in a CO safety and awareness sessions delivered in isolation. We plan to include the CO safety message in with other more appealing activities or existing provision. Residents will benefit from positive social and educational interactions and activities.</p> <p>This includes specific activity sessions for people with Substance Misuse issues & Learning Disabilities delivered by specialist partners.</p> <p>Residents will benefit from increased awareness, education, training, conversations, and educational materials around CO safety.</p> <p>Residents will benefit from CO kits that can be self-installed.</p>
<p>Expected outcomes and the associated actions.</p>	<p>Through the translation of our promotional material, around the dangers of CO, into easy read formats, in English and Welsh – Increased access and awareness for people with learning difficulties, people with drug & alcohol dependencies, and youths leaving care.</p> <p>An increased reach of 4000 people with CO messaging through targets social media campaigns and attendees to a Virtual Careers Fair which is also being supported by this project.</p> <p>Up to 350 free CO monitors distributed by RCTCBCs dedicated network of partnerships, working in the pilot area and at least an additional 500 people reached</p>

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	with messages promoting energy safeguarding and the dangers of CO.
Scale of VCMA project and SROI calculations	Using the forecasted support measures provided by RCTCBC and input them in to our SROI Model. The output shows an £8.26 benefit per £1 spent.
Project Partners and third parties involved	<p>RCTCBC will act as the principal partner and deliver this project on behalf of Wales & West Utilities. RCTCBC will utilise their network of partners, working in the pilot area, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The RCTCBC Community Development Team - Citizens Advice - RCTCBC Education, Employment & Training Team - RCT People First - Barod - RCTCBC Cynon Learning Curve - RCTCBC Resilient Families Service/ Youth Engagement & Participation Service - - Housing Grants and Strategy Team
VCMA Project start and end date	The pilot will run over a 3-month period beginning in May and ending in July 2022.
Geographical area	The pilot will take place in and around the village of Penrhiwceiber, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Wales.

Please return all completed forms to: VCMA@wwutilities.co.uk

For further information on the VCMA please use the below link to the Ofgem guidance document:

[Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance \(VCMA\) Governance Document | Ofgem](#)