



Recommendations for health and housing in Suffolk

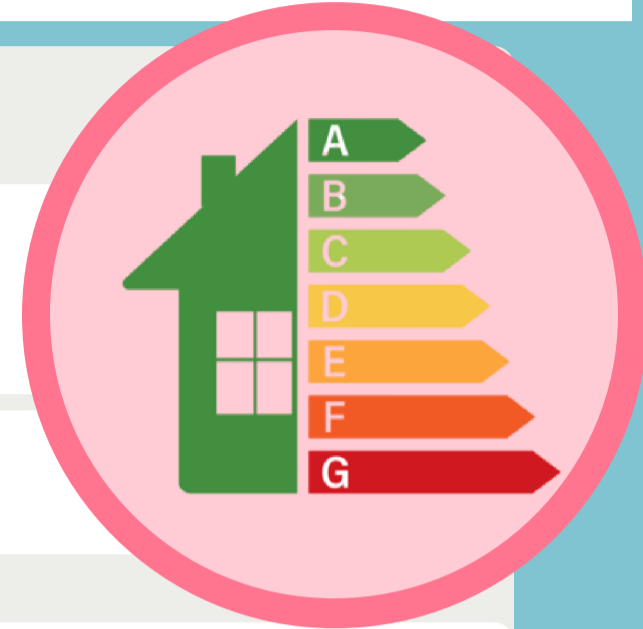
For housing and health strategic leaders/decision makers

For existing housing:

- Provide additional funding opportunities for upgrading and retrofitting Suffolk's homes with the worst energy efficiency ratings to prevent ill health.
- This can be achieved through (a) joined-up awareness raising campaigns on available grants and subsidies, (b) support for residents and landlords to apply for them, (c) lobbying (or requesting) government for area based, funded schemes.
- Continue work to coordinate local strategies and policies to address existing poor housing conditions and promote healthy, affordable, and sustainable homes

For new housing:

- Prioritise planning conditions and policies to improve housing affordability by prioritising different tenures housing developments.
- Ensure stronger local plans so properties do not need to be retrofitted.
- Provide local planning guidance to ensure high quality, accessible, excellent rated energy efficient new homes are built.



For Suffolk organisations working in housing and health



- Suffolk housing board to lead development of a "Housing health audit" to identify and address housing-related health hazards in all housing tenures.
- Greater focus is required within the private rented sector, where residents are more likely to experience worse housing conditions.
- All organisations with the Suffolk system, not just housing teams, should adopt a Make Every Contact Count (MECC) approach to ask residents about their housing, providing advice on maintaining warm and dry homes, and referring residents living in poor conditions to support services.
- Where appropriate, organisations should refer for further local support services via the Warm Handover Referral Scheme.
- Strengthen links with health, Public Health and Communities, and the Suffolk Office of Data & Analytics (SODA) to enhance data sharing and intelligence to inform targeted housing interventions.
- For new and existing housing, start to systematically consider how the likely effects of climate change, including more extreme heat, more extreme cold, more extreme storms and higher flood risks will affect housing and conditions in Suffolk, and include those mitigations in future plans.
- Suitable infrastructure will be required in the form of policies and trained and accessible builders to carry out this work.

For individuals living in Suffolk

- Assess for household hazards – particularly mould or moisture issues.
- For those renting their properties, if they are sub-standard, tenants can contact their landlord or property manager as they are responsible for the condition of the home. Sources of information include Shelter, Warm Homes Suffolk Safe Suffolk Renters, Citizens Advice, or the local authority for further advice.
- Look for opportunities to adapt homes as people age to improve home safety.
- Sources of information include NHS home adaptations, the Disabled Facilities Grant, Independence at Home, AgeUK and the Suffolk County Council Adapting your home to work for you page, Independent Living Suffolk.

