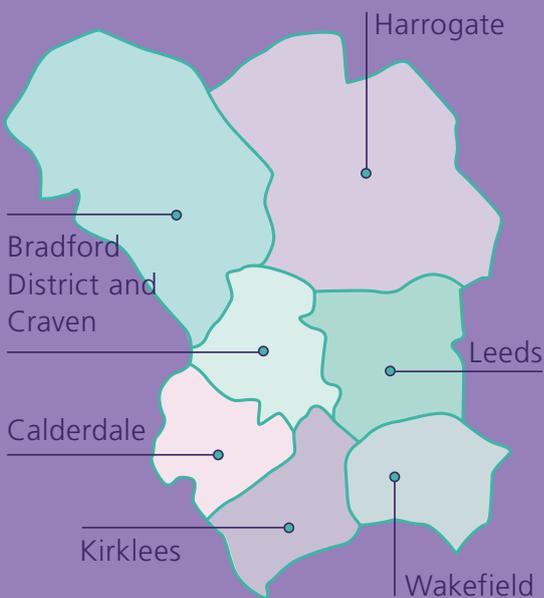


Telling our Partnership story



Proud to be the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership

Committed to improving the health and wellbeing of people living in:



- > Working to improve people's health with and for them
- > Improving people's experience of healthcare
- > Making every penny in the pound count
- > Working to keep people well and make life better for 2.6 million people living in West Yorkshire and Harrogate.

West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership



▲ Residents of WDH's Springfield Independent Living Scheme in Castleford enjoying their newly refurbished patio area.



Eating or heating? Beating the postcode lottery on housing health

Our ambition

Warm safe housing is a fundamental basic need for a healthy life. Fuel poverty is on the rise; for example in Wakefield around 15,000 households - or 10% - of people are living with fuel costs which put their income below the poverty line. People are having to decide whether to heat or eat as depending on where you live this can also impact on the easy access of good affordable food.

Our partnership recognises the impact that poor housing has on people's health and wellbeing. Our ambition is to address this across West Yorkshire and Harrogate.

What we are doing

For people without enough money to heat a house it can lead to the deterioration of some medical conditions and contribute to accidents and injuries such as trips, falls and burns. It can also mean people face a difficult choice between heating and eating. We've started to build partnerships to understand the impact of housing on health care and, where housing issues are present, address how we can make hospital discharge more efficient.

A new housing support coordinator in Wakefield is also making a huge difference to the lives of people with mental health problems by working with South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in Fieldhead Hospital. They have supported over 46 people in the last six months, including those who were homeless, by reducing their length of stay in hospital. This approach has also been replicated at Pinderfield's hospital.



▲ *An independent living resident getting online with the help of one of WDH's Community Support Workers.*

Owning more than 31,500 homes, WDH is one of the country's biggest social housing providers.

WDH place great value on the health and wellbeing of their tenants and has invested in a range of services to support healthy lifestyles.



20% of homes in the Wakefield district are privately rented. While the majority of landlords provide well maintained homes, unfortunately some are unsafe and badly managed.

The Council's Responsible Landlord Scheme, is one of the most successful in the country, and has 250 accredited landlords in the district – accounting for nearly 7,000 properties.



What next?

Spreading this approach will be a key part of the long term plan for the NHS. Poor housing and the impact on health is one area we have pledged to tackle together; it costs the NHS £1.4bn a year but by reducing excess cold to an acceptable level alone we could save £848m nationally and, more importantly, improve people's lives.

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A partnership made up of the NHS, local councils, care providers, Healthwatch, community and carers organisations.

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West Yorkshire and Harrogate
Health and Care Partnership

