Cadent
Your Gas Network

Vulnerability & Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA)

Project Eligibility Assessment (PEA)

Supporting Autistic Young People, their Families and Carers.

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Gas Network Vulnerability & Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA)
Governance Document - Project Eligibility Criteria

Section 1 - Eligibility criteria for company-specific projects (other than condemned essential gas appliance repair and replacement) In order to qualify as a VCMA project, a project must:	
VCMA Eligibility Criteria	**Criteria Satisfied (Yes/No)**
a) Have a positive, or a forecasted positive, Social Return on Investment (SROI) and Net Present Value (NPV) including for the gas consumers funding the VCMA Project (GDNs should use a common SROI model.	Yes
b) Either: **i.** Provide support to consumers in vulnerable situations, and relate to energy safeguarding, or **ii.** Provide awareness on the dangers of CO, or **iii.** Reduce the risk of harm caused by CO;	Yes
c) Have defined outcomes and the associated actions to achieve these;	Yes
d) Go beyond activities that are funded through other price control mechanism(s) or required through license obligations; and	Yes
e) Not be delivered through other external funding sources directly accessed by a GDN, including through other government (national, devolved or local) funding.	Yes
Section 2 - Eligibility criteria for company-specific essential gas appliance servicing To qualify as a VCMA Project, essential gas appliance servicing must meet the following criteria:	
a) Either: i. A GDN has had to isolate and condemn an essential gas appliance following a supply interruption or as part of its emergency service role; or ii. A GDN or its Project Partner has identified an essential gas appliance which has not been serviced in the last 12 months in the owner-occupied home of a customer in a Vulnerable Situation where an occupier of the property suffers from a permanent or temporary health condition that makes them more vulnerable to health risks associated with cold homes; or iii. A GDN or its Project Partner has identified an essential gas appliance which has not been serviced in the last 12 months in a tenant-occupied home of a customer in a Vulnerable Situation where it is the tenant's responsibility to maintain the essential gas appliance, where an occupier of the property suffers from a permanent or temporary health condition that	N/A

makes them more vulnerable to health risks associated with cold homes.	
b) The household cannot afford to service the essential gas appliance, which is assessed against criteria consistent with the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) Guidance: Delivery document1 (see Appendix 1).	N/A
c) Sufficient funding is not available from other sources (including a social or private landlord, national, devolved, local government funding) to fund the essential gas appliance service.	N/A

Section 3 - Eligibility criteria for Collaborative VCMA Projects To qualify as a Collaborative VCMA project, a project must:	
a) Meet the above company-specific and boiler repair and replace (if applicable) project eligibility criteria;	N/A
b) Have the potential to benefit consumers on the participating networks; and	N/A
c) Involve two, or more, gas distribution companies.	N/A

Gas Network Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) Governance Document - Project Registration Table 2

Information Required	**Description**
Project Title	Ambitious About Autism
Funding GDN(s)	Cadent company specific project
New / Updated (indicate as appropriate)	New
Role of GDN(s) *For Collaborative VCMA Projects only	Not applicable
Date of PEA Submission	April 2025
VCMA Project Contact Name, email and Number	Name: Phil Burrows Title: Head of Customer Vulnerability Social Programme Delivery Email: Phil.m.burrows@cadentgas.com Number: 07773 545451
Total Cost (£k)	Partner costs: £59,992.50 Leaflet Costs: £200.00 Slow cookers costs: £194.88 Project management costs: £2415.49

Total VCMA Funding Required (£k)	£62,802.87
Problem(s)	Rates of autism diagnosis continue to increase year on year, leaving thousands of families across the UK in need of specialist education for their children, and wider family support. However, we are yet to see a proportionate increase in help for families, leaving too many in a precarious state of uncertainty, and a lack of optimism for the future. Families of autistic and disabled children are at an economic disadvantage[2]: • On average, disabled households (with at least one disabled adult or child) need an additional £975 a month to have the same standard of living as non-disabled households. • Based on inflation rates during 2022/23 there was a rise in costs to £1,122 per month. • On average, the extra cost of disability is equivalent to 63% of household income after housing costs. • The average extra costs rise to £1,248 per month where there are two disabled adults in the household and at least two children. And for households with one disabled adult, one non-disabled adult and at least one child, the average extra cost is £634. • 18.5% of single disabled families cannot afford to warm their home[3]. There is clearly a need to support families of autistic children to fuel their homes and reduce outgoings where possible. Living in poverty makes these individuals more susceptible to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, prolonged financial difficulties, and various physical and mental health-related problems. Ambitious About Autism has been supporting autistic children, families and carers since 1997, providing expert advice relating to education, health, social welfare and legal entitlements. A partnership project with Cadent will assist Ambitious About Autism to tackle some of these pressing issues and help to introduce additional services such as CO, priority service register (PSR) and energy efficiency advice.
Scope and Objectives	<u>Project Scope</u> From March 2025 to March 2026 Cadent will invest £62,802.87 of VCMA funding to fund resources and training to enable the delivery of vital information and support on CO safety, energy efficiency and PSR, in partnership with Ambitious About Autism. Ambitious About autism will utilise their Talk about Autism platform, which seeks to connect parents and carers with others who understand their situation and can provide support, empathy and signpost to specialist help and is a trusted source of information that has the power to elevate their voices. They will ensure staff have the knowledge, capacity and direction required to run webinars and one to one sessions focusing on the below: • Energy Efficiency webinars delivered through the Talk About Autism platform, as well as upskill Transitions and Welfare officers to provide one-to-one support.

[1] Scope report 2023: https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs/disability-price-tag-2023/
[2] https://www.jrf.org.uk/deep-poverty-and-destitution/from-disability-to-destitution

	• Provide debt advice utilising their Family Services Team and resources readily available on the platform. • Deliver one-to-one conversations, distribute leaflets and promote wider awareness on the PSR and CO, sharing resources on the online platform. • Wellness elements like learning to cook affordable warm meals together. <u>Project Objectives</u> Cadent will measure the success of the project against the achievement of the following objectives: • To generate a positive social return of investment – see the below relevant section for more details. • 140 individuals will receive energy efficiency advice, including ways to save energy consumption and energy bills, 100 via group webinar and 40 one-to-one conversations. • 130 individuals will receive one to one CO education to improve their CO safety awareness, and the 10 most at-risk individuals will also receive a CO alarm. The resources will be embedded on the online platform available to 3,500 members. • 130 individuals will receive one to one advice about the PSR, the resources will be embedded on the online platform available to 3,500 members, with the hope that 35 individuals will sign up to the PSR. • 40 individuals will receive one to one debt advice directly through the Family Services Team. • 7 individuals will receive a slow cooker and learn how to cook affordable, healthy and energy efficient meals.
Why the Project is Being Funded Through the VCMA	We believe that the project meets all the Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance eligibility criteria: **a. Have a positive, or a forecasted positive, Social Return on Investment (SROI) including for the gas consumers funding the VCMA Project:** *The project delivers a positive forecasted social return on investment. This is based on achieving the target reach for debt advice, CO education and PSR registration. More information can be found in the relevant section below.* **b. Either:** **i. Provide support to consumers in Vulnerable Situations and relate to energy safeguarding, or,** **ii. Provide awareness of the dangers of CO, or,** **iii. Reduce the risk of harm caused by CO;** *The project delivers services that meet all three elements of this criteria. For example, the specialist advisors will help households maximise their income, enabling residents to afford the cost of heating their home to an adequate level. The project will also raise awareness of the dangers of CO and promote registration to the PSR.* **c. Have defined outcomes and the associated actions to achieve these:** *Cadent and Ambitious About Autism have entered into a service agreement that will contain the project objective and actions. Further detail can also be found below.*

	d. Go beyond activities that are funded through other price control mechanism(s) or required through licence obligations, and, *This method of delivering support to individuals in vulnerable situations falls outside of Cadent's BAU activities and other licence conditions.* **e. Not be delivered through other external funding sources directly accessed by a GDN, including through other government (national, devolved or local) funding,** *This project will be solely delivered through Cadent's VCMA funding.*
Evidence of Stakeholder/Customer Support	Through engagement and research with various stakeholders, Cadent gains a better understanding of stakeholder needs, expectations, what is important, what services are needed and how to deliver them effectively. In turn, Cadent can strategically allocate VCMA spend to support vulnerable individuals and reach the diversity of individuals in need of support.
Information Required	**Description**
Outcomes, Associated Actions and Success Criteria	Project Outcomes The project aims to achieve the following outcomes: • Individuals will report increased levels of confidence in understanding how to manage household energy debt, reducing financial pressure and stress, leading to improved mental health and wellbeing • Individuals will report an increased awareness on the dangers of CO and have a reduced risk of harm caused by CO. • Individuals will report reduced levels of anxiety in fearing a utility outage and increased awareness of the PSR. • Provide individuals with energy efficiency advice and individuals will report a better awareness of energy efficiency measures and improve their practices. • Individuals will report an increased knowledge of cooking on a budget, healthy cooking, and use of a slow cooker to save on energy. Associated Actions The following associated actions will be implemented to deliver the project's outcomes: • Cadent will provide energy efficiency, CO and PSR training and provide resources to the core project delivery team. This will enable staff to provide advice and support related to the project's key deliverables. • Ambitious About autism will use a variety of methods to support individuals; hold one-to-one conversations, provide support literature, host webinars and utilise The Talk About Autism platform to host resources and encourage engagement. Success Criteria The success of the project will be measured against the below criteria: • The project will generate a positive social return on investment – see the below relevant section for further details. • 140 individuals will receive energy efficiency advice, including ways to save energy consumption and energy bills, 100 via group webinar and 40 via one-to-one conversations. • 1,250 individuals will receive CO education to improve their CO awareness, 130 via one -to-one conversation and 1,120 (32% of the

	3,500 members) will take positive action as, a result of seeing the leaflet. • 3,500 individuals will receive advice about the PSR, 130 via one-to-one conversation and 3,370 online via the leaflet, with 35 of these signing up to the PSR. • 40 individuals will receive debt advice through the Family Services Team, including managing household debt. • 7 individuals will receive a slow cooker and learn how to cook affordable, healthy and energy efficient meals.
Project Partners and Third Parties Involved	Ambitious About Autism
Potential for New Learning	Ambitious About autism actively work with autistic children and their families, therefore this project will provide Cadent with an opportunity to understand the needs of this specific vulnerable group and highlight the most effective ways to support their existing and changing needs. Cadent remain committed to working closely with its partners to enhance the effectiveness of projects. By actively seeking feedback, we aim to refine the support and services offered to vulnerable individuals, ensuring a more personalised and continuously improved approach to meeting community needs.
Scale of VCMA Project and SROI Calculations, including NPV	<u>Scale of VCMA Project</u> In partnership with Ambitious About autism, Cadent will invest £62,802.87 of VCMA funding to support individuals in North London. From March 2025 to March 2026, the project is forecasted to reach up to 130 individuals face to face and a further 3500 via an online platform, delivering vital messaging and support on CO safety, energy efficiency, debt advice and PSR awareness to the most vulnerable. <u>SROI Calculations</u> The SROI has been calculated using the following information in the GDN rulebook: • 1,250 individuals receiving CO safety advice. 1:1 conversation= 130 and via leaflets = 1,120 • 10 individuals receiving a CO detector • 140 individuals receiving energy advice 1:1 conversation=40 and webinar =100 • 40 individuals receiving debt advice • 35 individuals signing up to the PSR • 7 individuals will receive advice on slow cooking and receive a free slow cooker SROI = £1 : £3.31 We also calculated the wellbeing SROI of feeling safe from receiving advice on the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning through the non-standard calculator tool for 15% of the total 1250 = 170 individuals will feel safer having received this advice. We used a cost of £5250 for the advice which was subtracted from the total investment = £62,802.87 This further calculation increased the as shown below however has not been used for the submission. SROI = £1 : £33.06

	GDN Rulebook Latest Version Date: 27-09-2024 SGN · Northern Gas Networks · Wales&West Utilities · Cadent Load **Project information:** Name: Ambitious About Autism WACC: 4.97% Year of assessment: 2025 Start year of benefits: 2025 End year of benefits: 2026 Attribution: 0.00% **Results:** Cost (discounted): £59,979.48 Customer volume: 1482 GPV: £258,569.19 NPV: £198,589.71 SROI: £3.31 **Non-standardised activity inputs:** Cost (discounted): GPV: Calculate Save Clear Cost 25 / 26 £62,802.87
VCMA Project Start and End Date	Start Date: 1st April 2025 End Date: 31st March 2026
Geographical Area	This project will be delivered across North London, within Cadent's network.

Gas Network Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) Governance Document - PEA Control Table

In order to ensure that a VCMA project is registered in accordance with the Ofgem VCMA governance document (incl. project eligibility assessment), the below table should be completed as part of the project registration process.	
Stage 1: Sustainability and Social Purpose Team PEA Peer Review	
Date Immediate Team Peer Review Completed: 18/02/2025	Review Completed By: Suzanne Callington
Stage 2: Sustainability and Social Purpose Team Management Review	
Date Management Review Completed: 21.05.2025	Review Completed By: Gemma Norton
Step 3: Head of Sustainability & Social Purpose Sign-Off: Phil Burrows	
Head of Sustainability and Social Purpose Sign-Off Date: 30/09/2025	
Step 4: Upload PEA Document to the Website & Notification Email Sent to Ofgem (vcma@ofgem.gov.uk)	
Date that PEA Document Uploaded to the Website: December 25	
Date that Notification Email Sent to Ofgem: December 25	