

Vulnerability & Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA)

Project Eligibility Assessment (PEA)

ISRAAC Community Centre Centres for Warmth

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June 2022

Updated September 2024





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)		
To qualify as a VCMA project, a project must:		
VCMA Eligibility Criteria	Criteria Satisfied (Yes/No)	
 a) Have a positive, or forecasted positive Social Return on Investment (SROI), including for the gas consumers funding the VCMA project. 	Yes	
 b) Either: Provide support to consumers in vulnerable situations, and relate to energy safeguarding, or Provide awareness on the dangers of CO, or 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 licence 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 a and replacement projects	ppliance servicing, repair	
To qualify as a VCMA project, unsafe pipework and essential gas appliance servicing, repair or replacement must meet the following criteria:		
 A GDN must isolate and condemn unsafe pipework or an essential gas appliance following a supply interruption or as part of its emergency service role. 	N/A	
b) The household cannot afford to service, repair or replace the unsafe pipework or essential gas appliance, and.	N/A	
c) Sufficient funding is not available from other sources (including national, devolved or local government funding) to fund the unsafe pipework or essential gas appliance servicing, repair or replacement.	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 participa networks; and 	ating 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	ISRAAC Somali Community Association (Centres for Warmth)
Funding GDN(s)	Cadent
Role of GDN(s) *For Collaborative VCMA Projects only	Not applicable - Cadent specific project
Date of PEA Submission	June 2022
	Updated September 2024
VCMA Project Contact Name, email, and Number	Email: phil.m.burrows@cadentgas.com Number: 07773 545451
Total Cost (£k)	£233,127.40
	Updated September 2024
	£415,134.30
Total VCMA Funding Required (£k)	£212,488.25 - Partner Costs £6,504.00 - Carbon Monoxide Alarm Costs £4,391.15 - Project Management Costs £9,744.00 – 350 Large slow cookers Total £233,127.40 Updated September 2024 – additional costs Centre Costs: £170,459.00
	Leaflets: £1,763.64 Slow Cookers: £2,784.00 Project Management costs: £7,000.26 Total: £182,006.90
Problem(s)	Sheffield is an area located on Cadent's East Midlands network and has high levels of deprivation. Sheffield has some of the highest levels of deprivation.
	High levels of deprivation can and often are linked to broader issues such as fuel poverty, increased carbon monoxide risk and financial hardship. <u>Unemployment</u>



According to Labour market indicators, working-aged people living in areas of high deprivation are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as the national average. Furthermore, the unemployment rate in the top decile of IMD areas is 17%, compared with an average of 8% across England (and 4% in the least deprived areas).
<u>Fuel poverty</u>
Statistics suggest that a higher percentage of people living in deprived areas experience unemployment and have a lower household income as a result.
Lower levels of income can increase the risk of a household experiencing health conditions associated with fuel poverty, as they may not have enough income to adequately heat their homes. They are more likely to turn their heating off or down, resulting in cold, damp living conditions, and an increased risk of suffering from associated illnesses such as respiratory issues, high blood pressure and depression/anxiety.
<u>Debt</u>
According to the Citizens Advice Bureau, those households in the lowest income group are three times more likely to be in debt, with the value of the debt being up to six months' worth of their income. Additionally, customers who rent are twice as likely as those who have a mortgage to owe more than six months of their income.
When factoring in unemployment, low income, drug and alcohol abuse and mental health, the chances of people being in debt are significantly higher. These people either do not have access to or believe there is a stigma to seeking advice on debt.
Risk of exposure to carbon monoxide and levels of deprivation
Around 40 people living in UK die from carbon monoxide poisoning each year. An additional 4,000 people attend accident and emergency each year because of carbon monoxide and 200 people are left hospitalised.
Issues such as fuel poverty and high household debt can influence a customer's risk of exposure to the dangers of carbon monoxide. An unavailability of household income can mean that many customers do not have the means to regularly service their gas appliances and/or purchase audible carbon monoxide alarms.
Updated September 2024
Due to the successful partnership between Cadent and Israac Somali Community Association, there has been wider growth and increased interest from the community. This increased interest presents the opportunity to extend the current project and enable Israac Somali Community Association to effectively continue running the Centre for Warmth project.
The past two years have seen a substantial increase in the number of people seeking help as they struggle with the



	challenges of everyday living. The demand for benefits and energy efficiency advice is increasing.
	Many households are cutting back on everyday essentials with the rise in the cost of living. Low-income households are most at risk of falling into real trouble with individuals skipping meals and being unable to use their heating. Cold homes can cause or worsen a range of serious health conditions including heart attacks, strokes, bronchitis, and asthma. Each year, around 10,000 people die because of living in a cold home. ¹ Fuel poverty can also have a significant impact on mental health and is a known risk factor for suicide. ²
Scope and Objectives	Project scope
	Cadent will invest £233,127.40 of the VCMA, in partnerships with ISRAAC Somali Community Association to enable the delivery of an initial 24-month project.
	The funding will be utilised by the centre to provide a range of services to local residents living in vulnerable situations.
	These services include:
	 Issuing a range of advice including home energy efficiency, debt management, benefit entitlement checks/applications and gas safety. The delivery of classes designed to promote slow cooking as an affordable, energy-efficient and healthy method of feeding a family. PSR conversations and registrations where appropriate. The delivery of carbon monoxide safety advice and the issuing of alarms where appropriate as well as raising awareness of general gas safety Provide slow cookers to people who are living in a vulnerable situation.
	The project aims to reach approximately 5,720 people over the course of the initial 24-month project. This total reach (some people will receive more than one service) will be divided between:
	 5,720 individuals will receive income maximisation/debt support. 5,720 individuals will receive energy efficiency advice. 4,800 individuals will receive carbon monoxide education. 4,800 individuals will receive awareness of the PSR and the 480 will go on to register.
	Project objectives
	The project contains a series of objectives that success will be measured:

¹ https://www.nea.org.uk/who-we-are/policy-and-research/our-health-our-

homes/#:~:text=Across%20the%20UK%2C%20NEA%20estimates,impact%20of%20Covid%2 D19%20struck.

² https://www.nea.org.uk/what-is-fuel-

poverty/#:~:text=Fuel%20poverty's%20impact%20on%20health,strokes%2C%20bronchitis%2 C%20and%20asthma.



	• To support customers across the project area living in isolation, fuel poverty and at risk of exposure to carbon monoxide and general gas safety.
	 To deliver income maximisation/home energy efficiency advice to approximately 5,720 individuals.
	 To deliver slow cooking awareness sessions to between 50-100 individuals.
	 To encourage and support signing up to the PSR for eligible households.
	Updated September 2024
	Cadent will provide Israac Somali Community Association with an additional £182,006.90 for a 19-month extension of the Centre for Warmth project. The funding will enable the centres to provide additional services as listed below.
	Project Objectives
	The success of the project will be measured against achieving the additional below objectives:
	 Deliver PSR advice to 5,035 individuals. Register 503 individuals to the PSR. Provide energy efficiency advice to 5,035 individuals via in-depth one-to-one or group conversations. Provide 5,035 individuals with income maximisation services. Provide 100 slow cookers at dedicated events and as individual needs emerge. Provide one-to-one carbon monoxide awareness conversations to 5,035 individuals. Distribute 5,035 carbon monoxide alarms. 579 individuals will attend the centre and have a conversation with others, alleviating loneliness, and isolation.
Why the Project is Being Funded Through the VCMA	Cadent believe that this project meets all the required VCMA eligibility criteria.
	a. The project is forecasted to have a positive SROI. Please see the relevant section for more information.
	We believe this project has the deliverables necessary to create a positive social return on investment - see the below section for more details.
	b. The project will either:
	i. Provide support to consumers in vulnerable situations, and relate to energy safeguarding, or
	 Provide awareness on the dangers of CO, or Reduce the risk of harm caused by CO.
	The project will provide support to customers living in vulnerable situations through energy efficiency advice/income maximisation. The project will also offer



	customers education on the dangers of CO and issue audible alarms to at-risk households.
	c. The project has defined outcomes and the associated actions to achieve them.
	This project has clearly defined outcomes and associated outcomes, the meeting of which will quantify success. Further information on the project's outcomes and associated actions can be found in the relevant section below.
	 d. The project goes beyond the activities funded through other price control mechanisms or required by licence obligations.
	The method of delivering support to customers living in venerable situations is innovative, as it utilises partnerships with key community stakeholders. This allows for some of the hardest to reach communities to benefit from Cadent's messaging.
	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 delivered solely through Cadent's VCMA funding.
Evidence of Stakeholder/Customer Support	Cadent conducted extensive stakeholder and customer research in May 2022 following the completion of RIIO-GD2 year one. The research's aim was to assess customer/stakeholder opinion on Cadent's allocation of VCMA spend and gain insight on where we should direct VCMA funding in the future.
	61% of stakeholders (the highest proportion by individual category) supported Cadent increasing its VCMA allocation on projects aimed at tackling fuel poverty.
	This Centre for Warmth project focusses on tackling fuel poverty by offering energy/income advice to households at risk of experiencing fuel poverty.
	Cadent's ³ independent Customer Engagement Group (CEG) report for its RIIO-GD2 business plans contains feedback on a variety of proposals, including Cadent's ambitions for tackling fuel poverty.
	The report supported Cadent's holistic approach to tackling fuel poverty, whereby a household is supported with a combination of services/advice.
	The CEG recognised the need for a holistic approach that supports a household with its fuel prices (FPNES), energy efficiency (advice/repair and replacement) and household income (income maximisation).



The Centre for Warmth partnership with ISRAAC Somali Community Association will allow Cadent to apply a holistic approach to supporting fuel poor households. Residents will receive a combination of services such as energy advice and benefit entitlement checks, all of which are designed to increase household income and help residents better manage their energy.
Cadent's recent engagement asked for the views of stakeholders/customers on specific RIIO-GD2 year one projects. An overwhelming majority of stakeholders (78%) and customers (81%) supported funding the Centre for Warmth project with VCMA funding.
A VCMA stakeholder commented:
"I have seen this in action, and it seems like a great initiative which should be given the time to grow so that more people hear about it and can then engage with it."
Cadent has taken this customer and stakeholder feedback onboard and aims to grow the Centre for Warmth project in areas of high fuel poverty/deprivation over the next year.
Updated September 2024
Cadent conducted a national survey in 2024. The aim of the research was to assess customer/stakeholder opinion on Cadent's allocation of VCMA spend and gain insight on where we should direct VCMA funding in the future. We have captured some of the key evidence below:
 Four out of five people are willing to pay £2.70 per year to fund each of the interventions that Cadent fund using the VCMA funding. 82% of people were willing to pay the extra £2.70 to help people in vulnerable situations with free repairs and replacements. 75% of people feel that they understand their gas beyond the overall price. With only two out of five fully understanding it. There is exceptionally low trust associated with energy companies.
This project focusses on tackling fuel poverty by offering energy/income advice to at-risk households.
Quote from the centre manager:
"Israac have received two years funding from Cadent which has helped us to develop the general advice worker and debt specialist advice worker. The rise in the cost of living has meant that we have seen an increase in the number of people accessing our support. Our advice services both debt and general has seen an increase in people needing advice. This demonstrates how crucial services we provide is for the people we serve.
Due to the Citizens Advice Bureaux closing their offices to the public and mostly now online, those who are not technical or English is not being their first language has created a barrier



	for them to receive support and Advice. This has now increased Israac Advice service bookings, and we are currently over one
	month fully booked. We have a thorough process for monitoring and evaluating the progress and success of our projects as well as the progression of our clients and volunteers.
	We have a detailed database that captures key data from clients and volunteers who take part in Israac activities and programmes. We also regularly record and collect feedback from the service users to ensure the support we provide is needed by those in our community and by listening to them and evaluating their progress and outcomes we can work in the most effective and fulfilling way for them.
	We continue to meet our aims through feedback and the number of individuals and families accessing Israac and those gaining training and needs identified to support them
	Additionally with the changes within DWP we are now seeing more people wanting advice as they may not understand the letters that they receive or what they need to do. They are also concerned how this will affect them financially."
Information Required	Description
Outcomes, Associated Actions and Success Criteria	Project outcomes
Success Criteria	The VCMA project will be delivered in partnership with ISRAAC Somali Community Association and aims to support approximately 5,720 residents with energy/safety/loneliness issues across an initial 24-month project period.
	The ISRAAC Somali Community Association Centre for Warmth project aims to achieve the following outcomes:
	• Provide support and advice to customers on numerous topics including benefit entitlement checks, homelessness, energy advice, fuel bank vouchers, income maximisation and mental health support.
	 Provide slow cooking classes to residents to promote the potential affordability, efficiency, and health benefits.
	 Provide support to lonely residents, ensuring that they can access the community centre and the services it offers. Provide residents with energy efficiency advice and carbon monoxide awareness.
	Associated actions
	 Cadent's funding will be principally used to employ and train two community advisors. The advisors will split responsibilities between providing specialist debt advice and broader assistance on carbon monoxide
	 Cadent will provide funding and equipment to enable the delivery of slow cooking classes. These classes will



Updated September 2024
 Customers will report an increased awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide and an increased feeling of safety at home.
 Isolated members of the community will report an improvement in mental wellbeing through experiencing lower feelings of loneliness. Customers will report an increased awareness of the
due to receiving support with home energy, financial and wider issues.
 Homeless residents are supported with financial, wellbeing and safety advice. Customers will report a decrease in anxiety and stress
 Customers will realise increases in household income through ensuring that they are claiming the benefits to which they are entitled.
Meeting of the below indicators will help Cadent determine the success of the project:
As well as aiming to reach a target number of customers, Cadent and the ISRAAC Somali Community Association will review the qualitative benefits/indicators of the project as part of the final evaluation.
 Provide 350 slow cookers to households who are unable to afford one and are living in a vulnerable situation.
 4,800 customers will be issued with education on carbon monoxide safety and general gas safety.
 4,800 customers will be offered an awareness and a means of signing up to the PSR.
 5,720 customers will be offered energy efficiency advice and support with managing debt.
 The project will reach approximately 5,720 customers across the course of the initial 24 months.
Success criteria The success of the project will be evaluated against the meeting of the project's objectives. These objectives include:
 Cadent's funding will enable the offering of advice to residents who speak English as an additional language or require translation services - particularly those from Somalian and Bangladeshi communities.
be aimed at promoting home energy efficiency, health eating and money management.



 The services listed below will be provided by Israac Somali Community Centre to address the vulnerabilities experienced by people within the community. <u>Associated Actions</u> The additional funding will allow Israac Somali Community Association to implement the following associated actions to deliver the project's outcomes: Cadent will continue to fund the Advice and Support: general advice worker and debt specialist advice worker. which is linked to energy and vulnerability and providing one-to-one support, general advice, debt advice, housing issues, Utilities, Council tax issues, benefits, form filling, and signposting where appropriate. They also help apply to energy schemes, support with debt management and budgeting, and much more. Cadent will continue to fund the Project Management position: a portion of project management cost to manage the building, all the programmes, staff and to enable us to increase footfall attending these activities and manage the day to day running of all the programmes. To also develop other activities linked to the needs of the community. Cadent will continue to fund a Part-time Receptionist: This provides individual support with PSR conversations or Carbon Monoxide safety awareness, distribution of slow cookers & carbon monoxide monitors and leaflets, sign posting, booking appointments for advice workers and welcoming visitors to the centre. Cadent will provide Israac staff members with refresher training to ensure that their knowledge is to date and accurate. This training is on CO, PSR and energy efficiency. Cadent will continue to provide Israac with materials to aid in the delivery of the project. These materials will include laflets, co alarway and set ow cookers
Success Criteria
 The success of the extension will be measured against achieving the additional objectives: Deliver PSR advice to 5,035 individuals. Register 503 individuals onto the PSR. Provide energy efficiency advice to 5,035 individuals via in-depth one-to-one or group conversations. Provide 5,035 individuals with income maximisation services. Provide 100 slow cookers at dedicated events and as individual needs emerge. Provide one-to-one carbon monoxide awareness conversations to 5,035 individuals.
 Distribute carbon monoxide alarms to people living in a vulnerable situation and do not already have one.



	 579 individuals will attend the centre and have a conversation with others, alleviating loneliness, and isolation. Individuals will report an increased awareness on the dangers of CO and have a reduced risk of harm caused by CO. This will be achieved through the centre's staff providing CO awareness conversations and distributing CO alarms to the most at-risk individuals. Individuals will report an increased knowledge of reducing their energy usage by using a slow cooker from attending a slow cooking course at a centre. Individuals will report a better awareness of energy efficiency measures. Individuals will report an improvement in their mental health because of attending the centres.
	These figures are included in the SROI calculation below.
Project Partners and Third Parties Involved	ISRAAC Somali Community Association
Potential for New Learning	The ISRAAC Somali Community Association Centre for Warmth project offers many potential areas of learning that Cadent can adopt for other VCMA-funded projects in RIIO- GD2.
	One of the main rationales behind funding the project is the number of residents living in vulnerable situations and fuel poverty. The centres also focus on supporting isolated members of the community, an area that previous Cadent projects had not directly focused on. This project will combine the VCMA-focussed services of CO education and energy efficiency advice, with activities that support the mental well- being of lonely residents. This will provide Cadent with learning on the effectiveness of combining both types of support and the best method(s) of delivering it.
	When assessing options for VCMA projects, we considered the effectiveness of directly engaging with end customers (rather than using a project partner). This project will provide insight into the effectiveness of working community stakeholders such as ISRAAC Somali Community Association. We believe that these stakeholders are trusted members of communities, and Cadent's partnerships with them allow us to engage previously difficult-to-reach customers with VCMA- funded services.
	The partnership with ISRAAC Somali Community Association Centre will also provide Cadent with learning about customers receptiveness to support from Gas Distribution Networks during an energy crisis. Some customers may be unaware of the industry's structure between suppliers, shippers and GDNs; and the project will offer good learning on customer's attitudes towards support offered by energy companies.
	Updated September 2024
	The continuation in Cadent funding will allow Israac Somali Community Association to continue combating key issues in the local community. This will allow individuals to gain support maximising their income and to get help in other key areas such as CO, PSR and energy efficiency. Cadent will learn from



Scale of VCMA Project and SROI Calculations	the partnership with the ls to gain knowledge of how Warmth project. Cadent will also use the constraint Vision webinar to gain feet information gained from the centres and implement reserved The scale of VCMA project The ISRAAC Somali Com Warmth project will delived duration. The project will the approximately 5,720 custor Social return on investme	we can improve the opportunities such a bedback from the cert his will allow Caden elevant improvement of the context of the support for an init focus on the provision of the provision of the provision of the calculations:	e Centre for as the Share the atre. The at to listen to the ts. a Centre for ial 24-month
		uantity of Customers Support	Total SROI for 5 years
	Income Maximisation Services Efficient Use of Appliances & Behaviours	5,720 5,720	£9,821,869.20 £2,103,644.40
	Priority Services Register	480	£69,067.20
	CO Education	4,800	£41,904.00
	Providing a slow cooker	350	£82,747.00
	Totals		£12,119,231.80
	Total Investment (5 year): Investment 1 year costs: SROI Calcu	£233,127.40 £116,563.70	
	5 year Gross:	£12,119,231.80	
	1 year Gross	£2,548,046.36	
	5 year Net:	£11,886,104.40 £2,431,482.66	
	Ratio of £1:59 <i>The SROI calculations f</i> <i>and are conservative.</i> <u>Updated September 202</u> Cadent will invest an address partnership with the Israal SROI for the full duration	2 <u>4</u> ditional £182,006.9 c Somali Communi of the project includ	0 of the VCMA in ty Association. ding the original
	 and extension of the projection and extension of the projection 10,755 individual advice = £18,467 10,755 individuals £3,955,366.35 	ect, Cadent will inve ls will receive inc	est £415,134.30 ome maximisation y efficiency advice



	 983 individuals will be registered to the PSR = £141,443.87 450 individuals will receive a slow cooker and advice on cooking healthier meals = £106,389.00 1,236 individuals will alleviate loneliness (this is based on the total reach of individuals for the full duration of the project.) = £2,657,400.00 Five-year gross present value = £25,413,976.82 One-year gross present value = £25,292,915.36 Five-year net present value = £24,998,842.52 One-year net present value = £5,192,372.36
VCMA Project Start and End Date	SROI Ratio: £1:61 Project start date: September 2022 Project completion date: September 2024 Updated September 2024 Start Date: 1 st September 2024 End Date: 31 st March 2026 The emisert will be delivered to compute in each encoded to be a september 2024
Geographical Area	The project will be delivered to communities in and around the Sheffield, in our Eastern Network.

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

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: Review 03/11/24	ew Completed By: Guv Dosanjh
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Stage 2 Sustainability and Social Purpose Team Management Review

Date Management Review Completed. 21/01/2025 Review Completed By. Gemma Notion	ment Review Completed: 21/01/2025 Review Completed By: Gemma Norton	Date Management Review Completed: 21/01/2025
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Step 3: Head of Customer Vulnerability Social Programmes Sign-Off: Phil Burrows

Head of Customer Vulnerability Social Programmes Sign-Off Date: 21/01/2025

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: March 2025

Date that Notification Email Sent to Ofgem: March 2025

