# Cadent 

# Vulnerability \& Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) 

Project Eligibility Assessment (PEA)
Centre for Warmth - Bonny Downs
Community Association (extension)

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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 forecasted positive Social Return on Investment (SROI), including for the gas consumers funding the VCMA project; | Yes |
| b) Either: <br> i. Provide support to consumers in vulnerable situations, and relate to energy safeguarding, or <br> ii. Provide awareness on the dangers of CO , or <br> 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 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 appliance servicing, repair and replacement projects

In order to qualify as a VCMA project, unsafe pipework and essential gas appliance servicing, repair or replacement must meet the following criteria:

| a) A GDN has to isolate and condemn unsafe pipework or an |
| :---: | :---: |
| essential gas appliance following a supply interruption or as part of |
| its emergency service role; |$\quad$ Not Applicable

## Section 3 - Eligibility criteria for collaborative VCMA projects

In order to qualify as a collaborative VCMA project, a project must:

| a)Meet the above company specific and boiler repair and replace (if <br> applicable) project eligibility criteria; | Not Applicable |
| :--- | :---: |
| b)Have the potential to benefit consumers on the participating <br> networks; and | Not Applicable |
| c) Involve two, or more, gas distribution companies. | Not Applicable |

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

| Information Required | Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| Project Title | Centre for Warmth - Bonny Downs Community Association (extension) |
| Funding GDN(s) | Cadent company-specific project. |
| Role of GDN(s) <br> *For Collaborative VCMA Projects only | Not Applicable |
| Date of PEA Submission | November 2023 |
| VCMA Project Contact Name, email and Number | Name: Phil Burrows <br> Title: Head of Customer Vulnerability Social Programme Delivery <br> Email: Phil.m.burrows@cadentgas.com <br> Number: 07773545451 |
| Total Cost (£k) | Centre costs: $£ 321,178.00$ Project management $4 \%$ cost: $£ 12,847.12$ |
| Total VCMA Funding Required (£k) | $£ 334,025.12$ |
| Problem(s) | Newham, East London is a borough located in Cadent's North London Network. The borough is within the 10 percent most deprived authorities in England and has ${ }^{1} 4$ LSOAs in the top $10 \%$ most deprived areas nationally. Areas with high levels of deprivation are typically affected by fuel poverty, and income deprivation is at a higher risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. <br> Fuel Poverty <br> Statistics suggest that households living in areas of high deprivation are at higher risk of experiencing fuel poverty particularly as home energy efficiency, the cost of energy bills, and household income all contribute towards fuel poverty. <br> Deprived areas are typically affected by relatively high unemployment rates and low income. Evidence shows that there is a trend in fuel poverty: the lower your income the more likely you are to be at risk of fuel poverty. Additionally, fuel-poor homes often have low energy efficiency ratings resulting in higher-than-average energy bills. <br> Income and Unemployment <br> ONS (2019) data indicates that deprived areas have a higher percentage of people in income deprivation. In Newham, 16.9\% of the population is income-deprived and 38 out of 164 neighbourhoods in Newham were among the most deprived. Newham also remains 3rd in income deprivation affecting older people. |

[^0]|  | Newham has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country; approximately 1 in 25 people in Newham are homeless. <br> Carbon Monoxide Risk and Deprivation <br> In the UK, approximately ${ }^{2} 30.3$ people die from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning every year, with over ${ }^{3} 4,000$ hospital visits estimated to be related to carbon monoxide. <br> ${ }^{4}$ NEA (2017) research indicates that the factors which expose households to the risk of fuel poverty such as low-income, poorquality housing and poor health impact heating and service behaviour and result in an increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. <br> Regardless of key messaging and recommendations, many lowincome households are unable to afford CO Alarms and regular gas appliance safety checks. <br> Food Poverty <br> In June 2019 it was reported Almost two million Londoners - of which an estimated 400,000 are children under 16 - struggle to afford or access enough food. The statistics are the result of a survey which asked thousands of Londoners about their ability to afford or access food to gauge their level of 'food security'. From the results, it is predicted that 1.5 million adults in London have low or very low food security. <br> Reports of inadequate access to food were highest amongst children in East London (32 per cent). ${ }^{5}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Scope and Objectives | Project Scope <br> Cadent will provide Bonny Downs Community Association (BDCA) with $£ 334,025.12$ of VCMA funding to enable the delivery of an extended 2 -year project following the successful outcomes of the initial 12-month Centre for Warmth project. <br> The 2023-2025 agreement will be an extension from the previous year and replicates other Centre for Warmth models, whereby specialist advisors are employed using VCMA funding. <br> The centre will provide essential information and support on carbon monoxide safety, energy efficiency advice and the priority services register (PSR) through the distribution of cadent leaflets. <br> The funding will be used by the centre to continue to provide a range of services to local residents living in vulnerable situations. <br> These services include: |

[^1]

|  |  |  | participations per year. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Debt advice | 2 referrals to the <br> Community <br> Support team per <br> week during term <br> time (78 unique <br> attendeess = 78 <br> participations per <br> year. | $8 \times$ in-depth $1-2-1$ sessions per week s 47 weks $=376$ particiepations per year. | 454 participations per year. |
|  | Immigration support | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 4 advice } \\ & \text { appointments per } \\ & \text { week } \times 39 \text { weeks }= \\ & 156 \text { participations } \\ & \text { per year ( } 50 \\ & \text { unique attendees). } \end{aligned}$ | Each month, 6 people with complex cases receive 3 in-depth advice appointme $=216$ participation | 372 participations per year. |
|  | Housing advice | 3 appointments per person x 117 unique attendees= 351 participations | 31 unique people last year attended a total of 88 advice appointments participations. | 439 participations per year. |
|  | Family Hub | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 350 \text { participants } \\ \text { per year. } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | 350 participants per year. |
|  | Slow cooking (advice and slow cookers) | 100 slow cookers <br> were distributed <br> and 108 <br> participations in <br> coking workshops <br> per year. | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 30 \text { slow cookers } \\ & \text { distributed per } \\ & \text { year. } \end{aligned}$ | 238 participations per year. |
|  | Kids bank of free clothing for families experiencing energy poverty | 2000 items of <br> clothing distributed <br> to 250 unique <br> attendees. | ' | 250 participants per year. |
|  | Form Filing (GP <br> registrations, <br> School <br> applications etc) <br> . | 156 unique attendees with 300 participations. | ' | 300 participants per year. |
|  | Benefits support | 78 unique attendees with 156 participations per year | ' | 156 participations per year per year |
|  | Free summer holiday meals and activities for Young People suffering from food and energy poverty | 80 unique <br> attendees $\times 13$ <br> days of summer <br> scheme $=1,010$ <br> participations | ' | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 1,040 \\ \text { participations } \end{array}$ |
|  | Total partici | tion for the whole Cad mily Hub and Commun | ht partnership project Support) each year | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \begin{array}{l} 11,076 \\ \text { participations per } \\ \text { year. } \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| Why the Project is Being Funded Through the VCMA | We believe th Carbon Mono <br> a. Have on Inv fundin <br> The p invest for inc educa found <br> b. Either <br> i. Provid and re <br> ii. Provid <br> iii. Reduc | the project mee de Allowance eli <br> positive, or a for stment (SROI) the VCMA Proje <br> ject delivers a p ent. This is based me maximisation on ondon mo the relevant se <br> support to cons te to energy saf awareness of th the risk of harm | s all of the Vulne gibility criteria: <br> casted positive, luding for the ga t: <br> sitive forecasted don achieving th registrations to noxide. More info tion below. <br> mers in Vulnera guarding, or, dangers of CO caused by CO; | rability and <br> Social Return s consumers <br> social return on e target reach the PSR and rmation can be <br> be Situations or, |


|  | The project delivers services that meet all three elements of this criteria. The project will raise awareness of the dangers of CO and promote registration to the PSR. <br> c. Have defined outcomes and the associated actions to achieve these: <br> Cadent and Bonny Downs Community Association have entered into a service agreement that will contain the project objective and actions. Further details can also be found below. <br> d. Go beyond activities that are funded through other price control mechanism(s) or required through licence obligations, and, <br> This method of delivering support to customers in vulnerable situations falls outside of Cadent's BAU activities and other licence conditions. <br> e. Not be delivered through other external funding sources directly accessed by a GDN, including through other government (national, devolved or local) funding, <br> This project will be solely delivered through Cadent's VCMA funding. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Evidence of Stakeholder/Customer Support | The Bonny Downs Community Association - Centre for Warmth project aims to offer customers in vulnerable situations support, particularly those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. <br> During the last year of the partnership with Bonny Downs Community Association, the centre has supported around 2,000 clients who attend the centre and live in the East Ham area. <br> Bonny Downs Centre manager - "During our first year of partnership, BDCA worked with Cadent to test out some 'Centres for Warmth' support services to relieve energy poverty levels amongst residents of the East Ham South area during the Cost-of-Living Crisis. Cadent funded the full running costs of our weekly 'Family Hub' support group for very low-income families which offered benefits advice, food, warm clothes, slow cooker workshops, carbon monoxide safety training and expert advocacy appointments to help the families improve their quality of life. Cadent also funded one member of our Community Support Project team to manage our new weekly 'Food Club' providing discounted groceries so people affected by energy poverty can buy $£ 30$ worth of goods for just $£ 5$ each. Additionally, Cadent helped us to pilot a 'Warmer Nights' drop-in Warm Bank with free home-cooked soup, hot drinks, Wi-Fi, board games and fun activities, such as yoga and choir, for two nights per week throughout four of the coldest months. This meant that low-income residents didn't have to sit shivering and lonely at home without any money for heating. Throughout the first year of the partnership between Cadent and BDCA, we proved to achieve all our agreed funding outcome targets and the case studies shared clearly demonstrated the life changing impact of our funded projects. Therefore, we agreed to expand our partnership for years 2 and 3 to cover a three day per week Debt Surgery, weekly Foodbank and regular Budgeting Courses. The increased funding has allowed BDCA to take on |


|  | an extra Debt Advisor and a Family Advocate so we can better cope with the large numbers of people seeking our support service. Without Cadent's funding, these vital frontline poverty relief services would have had to close - in the time when they are most needed. So we are delighted to be working together towards our shared goals". <br> This VCMA project is aimed at helping Newham households who are finding the need to eat into savings or reduce energy and food consumption as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. The project will offer essential support by helping households to maximise their income and use their energy more efficiently. <br> Centres for Warmth - the teams running the centres also fed into the development of this initiative, when considering the successes of the existing centre projects and opportunities for enhancements, based on the specific needs of the customers/households already being supported. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Information Required | Description |
| Outcomes, Associated Actions and Success Criteria | Project outcomes: <br> The partnership with Bonny Downs Association expects to achieve the following project outcomes: <br> To reach 22,152 individuals over the course of the initial 2-year project <br> Educate people about the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) and have a reduced risk of harm caused by CO. <br> Provide recipes for affordable, healthy, nutritious meals to people who attend the slow cooking sessions and provide a slow cooker to those who do not already have one or cannot afford one. <br> Provide individuals with energy efficiency advice and share tips on how to save money on their energy bills. <br> People will be brought together at events; this will celebrate their shared purpose. This will tackle loneliness, and social isolation and improve mental well-being. <br> Provide advice on benefits, debt, immigration and housing advice. <br> Associated Actions <br> Cadent will provide BDCA with $£ 334,025.12$ of VCMA funding, training and materials to enable the delivery of the project's objectives. <br> - BDCA will employ 6 part-time staff who will support residents by facilitating and issuing a range of advice including home energy efficiency, money/ debt management, benefit entitlement and checks, priority services register, gas safety and housing. |

- BDCA will issue 260 slow cookers to enable clients to cook affordable, efficient and healthy meals.
- BDCA will issue carbon monoxide alarms to enable clients to stay safe against the dangers of carbon monoxide and educate those most at risk.
- BDCA will coordinate events across the project period such as Community lunches, Family Hub and Kids Bank. These events will tackle loneliness and isolation.


## Success Criteria

The success of the project will be measured by evaluating achievement of the following objectives/outcomes.

1. The project will reach approximately 22,152 people across the course of the 2-year duration.
2. 2,718 will receive support and advice on income maximisation services such as support completing benefit application forms, housing support, debt advice and education on how to budget and manage money.
3. 22,152 people will receive a leaflet on energy efficiency advice, and we predict that $3 \%$ of people 665 will action the energy-saving hacks.
4. 22,152 people will improve their awareness of the PSR by receiving a leaflet. We predict that 3 \% of people 665 eligible households will register themselves onto the PSR. Individuals will report reduced levels of anxiety in fearing a utility outage through being assisted to register to the Priority Services Register (PSR).
5. 22,152 people will receive an awareness leaflet on the dangers of CO and general gas safety. We predict that 3\% of people 665 Individuals will report an increased awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide and an increased feeling of safety at home.
6. 476 people will receive slow cooking advice and 260 will receive a free slow cooker to help with eating on a budget and lowering energy consumption.
7. 2,527 people will feel less isolated and lonely due to attending events through the centre.

Cadent and BDCA will also review the qualitative outcomes and indicators of the project to determine the project's success. These include:

- Customers will feel less lonely and isolated through being able to access local community-based activities that are focussed on togetherness/social interaction.
- Customers will report reduced stress and anxiety levels through feeling in better control of their finances, housing, and energy efficiency.

|  | - Customers will report improved levels of safety through having <br> an improved understanding of the signs, symptoms, and dangers <br> of carbon monoxide. <br> - Customers will feel in more control of their home's energy usage <br> through an improved awareness of energy efficiency techniques, <br> including slow cooking. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Project Partners and Third <br> Parties Involved | Cadent will work in partnership with Bonny Downs Community <br> Association to deliver the VCMA project. |
| Potential for New Learning | The Bonny Downs Community Association - Centre for Warmth <br> project will offer potential learning which Cadent can adopt for <br> other VCMA-funded prajects. |
|  | The project will also provide specific insights into how fuel <br> poverty and CO impact London-based households. Many of <br> Cadent's VCMA projects are in urban areas. However, fewer <br> Centres for Warmth projects are in highly ethnically diverse <br> areas. |
|  | Newham is the 2nd most diverse borough in London. This <br> project will provide learning about the best methods, <br> communication channels and services to engage vulnerable <br> customers located in ethnically diverse urban communities. <br> Furthermore, BDCA has a particular project/session which <br> supports low-income families. |
|  | The demographic of attendees is young, immigrant mothers who |
| experience challenges such as maternity debt and acculturation- |  |
| all of which contribute to their vulnerability. There are gaps in |  |
| current research and projects linked to young immigrant |  |
| mothers, CO safety and fuel poverty. This element of the project |  |
| will provide insight into the most effective methods and services |  |
| for engaging young vulnerable immigrant mothers in urban |  |
| communities. It will also support the engagement of older, mainly |  |
| female residents who will have had similar experiences and may |  |
| not be accessing statutory benefits including pension credit due |  |
| to lack of knowledge or cultural stigma. |  |


|  | Total Investment (5 year): | £334,025.12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Investment 1 year costs: | £126,012.57 |
|  | SRO |  |
|  | 5 year Gross: | £8,131,609.53 |
|  | 1 year Gross | £2,531,126.71 |
|  | 5 year Net: | £7,797,584.41 |
|  | 1 year Net: | £2,405,114.14 |

Ratio: £1:22

## Supporting households to maximise their income.

Cadent worked with SIA Partners to evaluate the average 5-year gross present value of supporting households to maximise their income. They based their analysis on the "actual" data from a 3month project between Cadent and NEA, and historical data from NEA over the past 3 years.

They calculated an average 5 -year gross present value of supporting households to maximise their income of $£ 1,717.11$.

## Educating customers on the dangers of carbon monoxide

Cadent also employed SIA Partners to evaluate the forecasted social return on investment of several RIIO-GD2 business plan elements. These elements included CO education, CO alarm distribution and the repair/replacement of gas appliances.

They pointed to a number of factors that influenced the social value generated by educating customers on the dangers of carbon monoxide:

- A reduction in A\&E visits linked to CO.
- A reduction in long term hospitalisations linked to CO.
- A reduction in deaths caused by CO.
- A reduction in time of work due to injury caused by CO.
- A reduction in ambulance call outs linked to CO.

SIA Partners calculated the average 5 -year gross present value of a Co-educational conversation to be $£ 8.73$ - this is based on a 1-2-1 conversation with an $80 \%$ retention rate.

## Supporting households to register to the Priority Services Register

Cadent worked with SIA Partners to evaluate the average 5-year gross present value of supporting households to register to the PSR. They' based their analysis on the DNO proxy bank value for an avoided stress management course.


[^2]|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| VCMA Project Start and End <br> Date | Project start date:01/09/2023 <br> Project end date:31/08/2025 |
| Geographical Area | The project will be delivered in Cadent's North London Network. <br> Supporting communities and benefiting customers located in <br> East Ham in the Newham borough of London. |
| Remaining Amount in the <br> Allowance at Time of <br> Registration | The remaining funding is left in the Licensee's/ Licensees' <br> funding pot. |

## 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 <br> governance document (incl. project eligibility assessment), the below table should be completed as <br> part of the project registration process. |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Stage 1: Sustainability and Social Purpose Team PEA Peer Review |  |
| Date Immediate Team Peer Review Completed: <br> 31/10/2023 | Review Completed By: Mary O'Shaughnessy |
| Stage 2: Sustainability and Social Purpose Team Management Review |  |
| Date Management Review Completed: <br> 09/11/2023 | Review Completed By: Phil Burrows |

Step 3: Director of Sustainability \& Social Purpose Sign-Off: Mark Belmega

Director of Sustainability and Social Purpose Sign-Off Date: 09/11/2023

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 24

Date that Notification Email Sent to Ofgem: March 24


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Statistics-sheet-presspack-Jan-2019-18.01.19.pdf
    ${ }^{3} h t t p s: / / a s s e t s . p u b l i s h i n g . s e r v i c e . g o v . u k / g o v e r n m e n t / u p l o a d s / s y s t e m / u p l o a d s / a t t a c h m e n t \_d a t ~$
    a/file/260211/Carbon_Monoxide_Letter_2013_FinalforPub.pdf
    ${ }^{4}$ https://www.nea.org.uk/publications/understanding-carbon-monoxide-rise-in-households-
    vulnerable-to-fuel-poverty/
    ${ }^{5}$ Nearly two million Londoners struggle to afford or access enough food | London City Hall

[^2]:    ${ }^{6}$ https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-43316697
    ${ }^{7}$ https://www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/lonely-older-
    adults.html\#:~:text=Older\%20adults\%20are\%20at\%20increased,the\%20amount\%20of\%20so cial\%20contact.
    ${ }^{8} \mathrm{https}: / / l i n k . s p r i n g e r . c o m / c o n t e n t / p d f / 10.1007 / s 00127-019-01733-7 . p d f$
    ${ }^{9}$ https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/older-people-living-alone-are-50-more-likely-to-visit-ae-than-those-who-live-with
    ${ }^{10} \mathrm{https}: / / c a m p a i g n t o e n d l o n e l i n e s s . o r g / g u i d a n c e / w p-$
    content/uploads/2015/06/StatisticsGFLA.pdf

