Rossendale BOROUGH COUNCIL

Subject:	Excess Winter Deaths Task and Finish Group Report	Status:	For Publication		
Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:**	12th September 2018		
Report of:	O&S Committee	**Portfolio Holder:**	Regulatory Services		
Key Decision:	☐ Forward Plan ☐	General Exception ☐		Special Urgency ☐	
Equality Impact Assessment:		Required:	No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment		Required:	No	Attached:	No
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1.	**RECOMMENDATION(S)**
1.1	That Cabinet Members endorse the recommendations at section 4 of the attached report and which are also noted below.
1.2	That a formal, written response from the Cabinet is taken to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT
2.1 To inform Cabinet Members of the work undertaken by the Excess Winter Deaths Task and Finish Group and to ask for their endorsement of the recommendations contained within the attached report.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES
3.1 • **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS
4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS
5.1 Following statistics released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which cited Rossendale as having the highest number of excess winter deaths in the country (70) for 2015/16, a Task and Finish Group was established. The Group investigated the figures cited and the reasons behind the apparent number of excess winter deaths.

5.2 Task and finish work was undertaken which also introduced the 'Scrutiny in a Day' method. The scrutiny day brought together all relevant organisations at the same time to discuss the statistics and a way forward.

5.3 The work established that there was not a specific problem within Rossendale regarding excess winter deaths and that the 3-year rate was not higher that the England rate. However, it was established that there was an opportunity to create a Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. The Rossendale Strategic Health Partnership agreed to lead on this and a plan will be reported to a future O&S Committee.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:
6. SECTION 151 OFFICER
6.1 Comments remain the same as those provided for the June O&S report as follows:-
The Cosy Homes Scheme receives £30k per annum from Lancashire County Council's Affordable Warmth Grant, to support individual grants up to a maximum of £3k.

At paragraph 3.6 the attached report mentions the potential application of Disabled Facilities Grants to support the Cosy Homes Scheme. This would be possible if an Occupational Therapist recommends that such work is required to allow a person with a disability to remain or return to their own home. The balance of DFG grant carried forward into 2018/19 was £705 with a further £947k allocation for 2018/19.

7. MONITORING OFFICER
7.1   Any legal implications are covered in the body of the report.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT
8.1   There are no policy implications. The report was taken to O&S on 18th June 2018. A suggestion was made that a piece of work could be carried out to publicise work carried out and that there was not a specific issue with excess winter deaths in Rossendale. Cabinet Members may want to take this suggestion into account when formally responding to the O&S Committee.

9. CONCLUSION
9.1   The work of the Excess Winter Deaths Task and Finish Group is now concluded. The report, along with its recommendations, now requires a formal Cabinet response back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Excess Winter Deaths Task and Finish Group Report	Appendix 1