



# 4 safer homes

Help with safe, warm and accessible homes from your local council

0800 519 17 17





Cllr. Seán Woodward  
Chairman PUSH

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire exists to strengthen the economy of South Hampshire and improve quality of life of its one million residents. Securing improvements across all types of housing is one of our main targets as a stronger economy depends on access to good quality homes. I am delighted that PUSH has secured significant additional funding through the Regional Housing Board to help make private homes safe, warm and accessible.

Seven authorities are delivering these improvements through the PUSH 4 Safer Homes scheme and this will help to deliver PUSH's vision of a sustainable and successful future for South Hampshire.

This three-year project will offer some £8,394,000 of funding to householders via a grant or loan and the project aims to dramatically reduce the number of fuel poverty stricken households in the South Hampshire area.

The PUSH 4 Safer Homes project demonstrates the importance of working together across our Council boundaries to secure Government investment for the area and I am delighted to be leading that challenge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Councillor Seán Woodward  
Chairman (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire)

## Contents

Foreword	2-3
Contents	4
Introduction	5
Home Improvement Loan	6
Warm Home Grant	7
Accessible Home Loan	8
Help for Private Landlords	9
Home Improvement Agencies	10
Contact Us	11

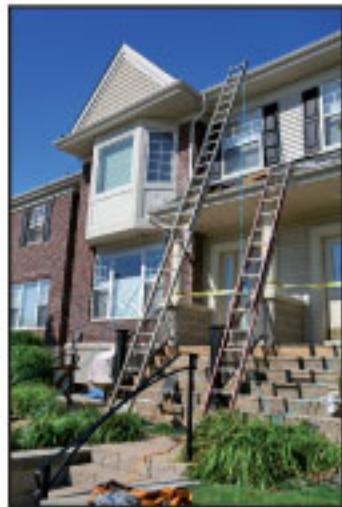
All images istockphotos

### Push 4 Safer Homes



PUSH 4 Safer Homes is the name of a new partnership for renewing private homes. Led by Southampton City Council, other partners include East Hampshire District Council, Fareham Borough Council, Havant Borough Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Winchester City Council, home improvement agencies, landlords' associations and the Environment Centre.

This booklet outlines some of the help available through the scheme from your local council to make private homes safe, warm and accessible. Arrangements in each area have been tailored to meet local needs and priorities, but in general are available to older, disabled and vulnerable people on low incomes.



The **Home Improvement Loan** is an interest free loan secured on your property. No monthly repayments have to be made, but the loan has to be repaid when the property is sold. It is available to home owners to pay for essential repairs and improvements and to make a home more friendly to the environment, for example, by fitting renewable energy, like solar panels.

Either your local council or home improvement agency will act on your behalf to choose a reputable builder and will

make sure the work is completed according to plan. The loan is aimed at helping home owners on low incomes. Contact us to find out if you are likely to qualify and to find out how the loan could help you to live in a safer home.



## Warm



Research shows that living in a warm home with the right levels of insulation and an efficient heating system can have a big impact on health and wellbeing. The **Warm Home Grant** automatically tops up the Government's Warm Front Grant to make sure that older people, disabled people and families with young children can have insulation and, in some cases, central heating fitted for free. To qualify for a grant, applicants need to claim a means tested income or disability benefit.



Contact us to find out if you qualify. If you do, we'll help you apply for a grant. If you don't, we'll put you in touch with advice and information on the best insulation discount scheme for you.

## Accessible



The **Accessible Home Loan** can either be used alongside a Disabled Facilities Grant (also available from your council) or on its own to pay to adapt a home to meet the needs of a disabled occupier. The loan works in the same way as a home improvement loan – it is interest free and doesn't have to be repaid until the property is sold.

An Occupational Therapist will usually help to identify the work that is needed. The loan may also be used to pay a disabled person's contribution to the Disabled Facilities Grant, which is means tested unless the work is for a disabled child.

Contact us for more information or to arrange for an occupational therapy assessment.



## Help for private landlords

PUSH 4 Safer Homes is working to introduce loans for landlords to bring empty properties back into use or to deal with serious housing hazards in high risk accommodation, such as bedsits and other houses in multiple occupation. The aim is to help landlords to supply good quality, affordable accommodation to help meet local housing needs. Help with improving insulation in privately rented homes is also available and in some areas this can be fitted for free. Contact us for more information or to take part in a pilot scheme to develop the landlord loan.



## Home improvement agencies

Home improvement agencies help vulnerable people to maintain their independence and to stay in their own homes if that is what they choose. The two local agencies in the PUSH 4 Safer Homes scheme are *in touch* and Community First New Forest. Staff at the agency will support you through the application, agree the work to be done with you and the council, arrange competent and reliable builders, and oversee the work until it has been completed.

The agency will be on hand to help resolve any problems and will help to make sure that you get any extra benefits or help that you are entitled to. Contact us to find out more about how your local home improvement agency can help you to live in a safe, warm, accessible home.



Community First New Forest

## Contact us



Call free **0800 519 17 17**

available Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm



[www.push.gov.uk/4\\_safer\\_homes](http://www.push.gov.uk/4_safer_homes)



[housing.renewal@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:housing.renewal@southampton.gov.uk)



PUSH 4 Safer Homes, Private Housing Team, Southampton City Council,  
4-8 Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG

**Fax:** 023 8083 2029

**Minicom:** 023 8083 2798

We look forward to hearing from you.



**0800 519 17 17**  
**Push 4 Safer Homes**  
**Provided by your local council**  
**Funded by Government through the Regional Housing Board**