



## PRESS RELEASE



# £90,000 to Support Sunderland Residents to Keep Warm this Winter

11th November 2020

### MAKE YOUR HOME WARMER AND SAVE MONEY WITH JUST ONE PHONE CALL

Groundwork North East & Cumbria are delivering a new FREE telephone service in Sunderland to help reduce fuel bills and keep homes warmer this winter. Energising Sunderland will help households stay warm, stay well, save money on their household bills and reduce carbon. Sunderland residents who request the service can expect a telephone call from one of our experienced Green Doctors who will help identify heating and energy issues in their homes and work to resolve them.

The team can offer support with how to switch energy suppliers, understanding billing and fuel debt and help identify the reasons for heat loss in the home. Green Doctors will offer free energy saving measures such as, LED light bulbs, radiator panels, draught excluders and warm home packs. Sunderland residents will be given lots of handy tips to help heat their home efficiently and help to sort out issues such as damp and condensation.

Cllr Dr Geoffrey A Walker portfolio holder for Healthy City at Sunderland City said; "I am delighted to see this funding come in to Sunderland to support our residents. Things are difficult, especially this year. Many people have less income because of furlough or because of a change to their working arrangements. Lots of people are also working from home and have to heat their homes more than normal. A project like this could help residents save money and be more energy efficient."

Energising Sunderland can help you if you are living with a child under 5 years old or are over 65 years old. We are able to support people living with debt or struggling to pay bills, residents from low income households and those living with physical and mental health issues. The eligibility criteria is very broad, we urge anyone interested to contact us. You can request a call for yourself or someone you know by contacting Julia Bentley on: 07515 327185 [julia.bentley@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:julia.bentley@groundwork.org.uk)

## ENDS

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## PRESS RELEASE continued



### NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information, please contact [media@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:media@groundwork.org.uk) or call 07793844627.

### ABOUT GROUNDWORK

Groundwork is a charity working locally and nationally to transform lives in the UK's most disadvantaged communities. We're passionate about creating a future where every neighbourhood is vibrant and green, every community is strong and able to shape its own destiny and no one is held back by their background or circumstances.

We help people gain confidence and skills, get into training and work, protect and improve green spaces, lead more active lives and overcome significant challenges such as poverty, isolation, low skills and poor health:  
[www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)