

Action for Affordable Warmth Partnership

Notes from Steering Group Meeting
5th December 2003
South Glos. Council offices, Nibley Court, Yate

Present: Lisa Jones (S Glos. Council), Lynfa Vater (S Glos. Council), Maggie Cornock (Stroud Care & Repair), Jessica Howell (Tewkesbury BC), Kaye Welfare (SWEA), Gary Packer (Cotswold DC), Graham Simmonds (S Glos. PCT), Barbara Piranty (Glos. Rural Community Council).

Apologies: Sue Wild (Chelt. & Tewks PCT), Ian Anderson (Glos. County NHS LSP Manager), Mike Redman (Cheltenham BC), Peter Massey and Louise Twinam (NEA).

1. **Welcome and Introduction** - special welcome to Barbara Piranty from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council who is attending her first Partnership meeting.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** - LJ explained these included all info recorded during meeting with regards to work carried out by group, minutes agreed correct by all.
3. **Warm & Well update** -(KW) - see attached report
 - See W&W half year report for further details
 - 54 referrals out of c.2000 are from health / social care professionals
 - 900 referrals generated by contractor
 - Self referrals will include a proportion of people brought into the scheme by health & social care professionals but who self referred in the end
 - 30% response rate to customer satisfaction survey, most satisfied or very satisfied with service from the scheme
4. **Round up of activities by Partnership contacts / feedback from events** -
 - S Glos. Older People's Local Implementation Team (PCT) organised a stake-holder event - Healthy Living & Active Life in Older Age. W&W and general energy exhibition. Attended by health & social care professionals, some members of public and Cllrs. Further events on other issues relevant to the Partnership are planned e.g. falls prevention.
 - Glos. Rural Community Council has held drop-in events with Age Concern around Gloucestershire through "In Touch" initiative, including promotion of W&W in conjunction with Glos. EEAC.
 - Tewkesbury BC - the Council's benefits take-up officer has been running a campaign with local pension service contact & EEAC
 - SWEA - new Winter greeting cards were launched in Warm Homes Week at a Warm & Well day (list of partners involved in events is those on the card)
 - Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes Warm Front Review meeting - attended by KW, to discuss with other key agencies how best to target WF grants in the future given that at present the scheme is not addressing fuel poverty - options discussed including "whole house" approach of improving all properties to the max so any household living there doesn't fall into FP, thereby only improving a small number of properties because overall budgets aren't going to increase; or

target households in need more effectively, but how could this be achieved? In Scotland anyone over 60 gets heating if there is none (none in WF terms). Current WF arrangements re. eligibility and measures remain in place until end 2005.

- S Glos. is hosting an NEA Fuel Poverty Workshop for Members in February; the B&S EEAC is working with SGC on Boiling Benefit Roadshows in January 2004; SGC is establishing an insulation scheme for mobile homes aimed at those in or at risk of fuel poverty.
- NEA SW Fuel Poverty Forum, Taunton - interesting presentations included one from Huw Launder of the Pensions Service on partnership working and from NEA on their Energy Champions in PCTs scheme and also MEND - Meeting the Energy Needs of the Deaf, which is a project to deliver energy efficiency resource materials written in British Sign Language, as the profoundly deaf read in BSL rather than in English.
- Launch of Somerset W&W scheme, and “one year on” from Future Energy West event, Weston super Mare - various presentations including from Dr Noel Olsen, a public health specialist advising the Government on various groups including Fuel Poverty Advisory Group; the launch of Somerset’s version of Warm & Well (which provides grants for insulation measures only, not heating); and presentations on using renewable energy and sustainable energy approaches to new housing developments, in particular affordable housing in partnership with Housing Associations.
- GS reported on a recent report on funding within the NHS which is now switching focus to the role of public health and may well, it is hoped, suggest a much stronger role for public health e.g. prevention of ill-health rather than focus on treatment of symptoms. We need to keep an eye out for developments on this issue.
- GS will liaise with Vicky Loughlin re. public awareness raising as part of their winter marketing campaign with local press.

5. Annual Report - all agreed that the report was well presented, there were no comments on content at the meeting (a few minor changes have since been requested by email from colleagues who couldn’t attend on Friday, these have been incorporated where possible). Thanks to LJ for preparing. **ACTION ALL** The report is to be distributed by all members to relevant people and organisations. **KW** to arrange for report to be sent out via LASP and to be put on action for affordable warmth /SWEA website.

6. Action for Affordable Warmth Co-ordinating Group - The co-ordinating group organises the meetings, monitors progress against the action plan and reports on progress. Presently this is LJ and KW as Sally has left, so now a third person is needed, preferably not from local authority background, to help with co-ordinating the work of the Partnership - perhaps a health contact? No one was able to commit at the meeting so in the meantime KW and LJ will invite different people to attend each coordinating group meeting as and when they take place.

7. Agree plan for year ahead - KW presented the co-ordinating group’s plan for the year ahead. It was agreed to encourage Partnership members to bring along other colleagues, we need to open out the meetings so it’s not just LA HECA officers. **ACTION ALL: Encourage relevant people to attend meetings that may be of interest to them**

Arrangements for 2004 meetings:

February - Open meeting targeting CAB's - presentation on Affordable Warmth followed by Alpine Environments presentation, then tea break followed by discussion on how we can work together with CABs to tackle fuel poverty.

May - steering group review meeting - up date on actions for next annual report due out Summer 2004

September - Open Format - topic to include RSL's Private Landlords, Advice for tenants

December - Open format - Health topic - look at opportunities to improve links between housing improvement, hospital discharge and admission prevention.

All agreed to proposed plan for forthcoming meetings

Action LJ / KW arrange venues and write to CABs in January to invite to meeting.

Each member of group to physically bring along CAB person to next meeting if possible.

8. Future meetings: Dates of meetings for 2004 as follows (locations to be confirmed):
20 February, 21 May, 24 September, 10 December

9. Any other business - None