

# Action for Affordable Warmth Partnership

27<sup>th</sup> April 2006, Hesters Way Healthy Living Centre, Cheltenham, 10.00-12.30

## Notes of meeting

### 1. Present

**Chair: Kaye Welfare** (Glos. Energy Efficiency Advice Centre Manager, SWEA)  
**Diana Billingham** (Cheltenham & Tewkesbury PCT / Glos. Healthy Living Partnership), **Sue Bayliss** (Environment Officer, Tewkesbury BC), **Cllr Libby Bird** (Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Stroud District Council), **Maggie Cornock** (Care & Repair Stroud Ltd), **Stephen McDonnell** (Environment Officer, Glos. City), **Martin Eibl** (National Energy Action), **Barbara Piranty** (In-touch Project, Glos. Rural Community Council), **Pat Bailey** (Sports Development Manager, Glos. City), **Debby Paice** (Home Energy Officer, South Glos. Council), **Rebecca Billington** (Warm & Well Scheme, SWEA), **Dinyar Baria** (Social Housing Coordinator, SWEA), **Sally Daley** (Sustainable Energy Officer, Stroud DC).

### Apologies

**Evelyn Nightingale** (The Pension Service), **David Sutton** (Private Sector Housing, Glos. City), **Mike Redman** (Regeneration, Chelt. BC), **Peter Wiggins** (Sustainability Manager, Glos. County), **Kayla Needham** (The Pension Service), **Dr Sally Pearson** (Director Clinical Strategy, Glos Hospitals NHS Trust), **Cllr Carol Topple** (Chair, Cotswold LSP), **Cllr Margaret Nolder** (Glos. County), **Phillip Lane** (Executive Manager Healthy Living, Glos. City), **Dilys Warren** (Health & Wellbeing Partnership Officer, Stroud DC), **Merci Rebati** (Volunteer & Community Action Stroud District), **Catrin Maby** (Director, SWEA), **Cllr Marion Winship** (Older Persons Champion, Forest of Dean DC).

**Note:** The agenda for this meeting was sent out more widely than usual, as an open invitation to attend, along with the special LSP Bulletin.

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting (08.12.05)

- **Progress of Actions arising from minutes:**

**Village Agents Project** (Barbara Piranty) – Bid was revised and re-submitted recently. The funding is from a £10m pot via Link Age Plus. Glos. County Council is the lead partner, with GRCC to deliver the work over a 21 month period.

**SAP energy rating as an indicator for a fuel poverty target** – On main agenda.

**Government Warm Front Scheme** – Katie Shears, South West Networker, has now left her post at Eaga Partnership. It is hoped a new networker will be in place during May. Client contributions towards Warm Front grants are still being requested from time to time.

**Targeted advice to vulnerable & older people** - Diana had organised the issue of a winter 'greetings card' as mentioned at last meeting.

**Review of AW Strategy** – On main agenda.

### 3. The new Health and Fuel Poverty Guidance Note for the South West (Martin Eibl, NEA)

This document has been produced by NEA with the South West Public Health Observatory, I&DeA, Department of Health, the Regional Public Health Group. It is for Primary Care Trusts, Health Professionals and local partnerships in the South West. [Download guidance note.](#)

Kaye said how much she welcomed the publication of the guidance note which includes a case study on the “Active, Warm and Well project” which SWEA has delivered for the PCTs in Glos.

A National Heart Forum toolkit for PCTs, by Dr Vivienne Press, called “[Fuel Poverty and Health](#)” and published in 2003 was also discussed. It features a generic example of an affordable warmth checklist for frontline workers, based on the referral packs developed first developed for the Glos. Warm and Well scheme.

#### **ACTION**

- Martin via Kaye via Diana and Barbara to ensure hard copies (about 60) of NEA Guidance Note plus Gloucestershire LSP Bulletin reach core members of all the Healthy Living Partnerships including the Directors of Public Health.
- It was agreed hard copies should also be sent to some senior contacts in the Community and Voluntary Sector including Gloucestershire Neighbourhoods Project Network.

#### **4. Working with the Local Strategic Partnerships – NEA / LSP Project**

The project has helped us make progress on influencing decision makers, with in-kind time from Jessica Howell, Diana and Kaye, plus five days each of Martin’s and Sally’s time funded by the district councils and DEFRA. Project now concluding. Follow-on work is to work as a group on development of targets / indicators for the revised AW strategy and if possible the Local Area Agreement.

Main outputs of project: Research and production of [LSP bulletin](#), making contact with and briefing the LSPs, keeping in touch with the LAA process and scoping options for a fuel poverty target in the Gloucestershire LAA.

The aim of the bulletin is to ensure decision makers have a local picture of the connections between the scale of the problem, the work of the AW Partnership, and the health impacts of cold homes. Some positive comments have already been received. The bulletin mentions the fuel poverty risk maps (from Centre for Sustainable Energy), new versions of the maps will be available later this year and will be very useful in the review of the strategy.

#### **Summary of contact with LSPs to date:**

**GHLP** – Sally and Kaye presented in September 2005.

**Forest** – Sally has contacted the LSP support team at the council. Di suggested also contact Sarah Scott at West Glos. PCT.

**Cotswold** – Sally and Kaye presented to main LSP end 2005.

**Gloucester** – Have just established a Healthy City Partnership which is chaired by Jill Salvin. Sally is in touch with Jill about future agendas.

**Tewkesbury** – Contacted. The LSP is restructuring. It may be more appropriate to brief Tewkesbury BC elected members at this point in time instead?

**Stroud** – Kaye and Martin will attend the Health and Wellbeing Partnership meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cheltenham** – Kaye and Martin are presenting to the main LSP board on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Note:** Kaye attended the last GSP stakeholder conference in September 2005; Diana gave a presentation to the NEA South West Fuel Poverty Forum in February (these are organised by Martin on a quarterly basis) about the work of this partnership and the way links are being made with the GHLP. This event was attended by a wide range of people from the health and voluntary sectors in the South West. Sally Daley and Phillip Bennett from Cotswold and Vale PCT attended from Gloucestershire.

#### **Action**

- All members to circulate PDF bulletin / weblink to strategic or senior management teams, elected members etc.
- Kaye to contact Adrian Goode, Tewkesbury LSP, again, before next AW meeting.
- Sally to contact Sarah Scott re Forest LSP and Jill Salvin re Gloucester again before next AW meeting.

## 5. Open Discussion on Fuel Poverty Targets

Initial comments collected at last meeting from partners have been considered. As a next step Sally provided hard copies of information relating to the development of useful indicators and targets on fuel poverty in the context of developing an LAA (circulated with these minutes). Key points:

- Examples from the earlier Local Public Service Agreements and new Local Area Agreements just published have been researched. Many different approaches.
- South Gloucestershire and Swindon have included fuel poverty targets in their LAAs.
- The South Glos. fuel poverty target is proposed as a stretch target (i.e. one attracting funding) but these targets have yet to be signed off.
- See sheet on Swindon's stretch target (circulated) as an example of the likely format.
- ODPM's general guidance for LAAs being negotiated during 2006/07, issued March/April 2006, proposes several sustainable energy outcomes as suitable for inclusion in LAAs including fuel poverty, renewable energy capacity, climate change and transport.
- It also proposes several health outcomes to which tackling cold homes and fuel poverty positively contributes (see p8 of ODPM LAA Guidance).
- This provides useful "hooks", but we can also be more creative and think about stretch targets that cut-across the blocks and outcomes.
- For the purposes of an LAA a target is defined as a 'clear, timebound milestone for achieving the outcome.' Targets should be based on a clear baseline.
- **In the LAA a number of top priorities will be selected for 'stretched' performance over three years in return for Performance Reward Grant (PRG).** Proposals will need to be evidence based, include robust baseline data, represent value for money and be endorsed by the LSP. The reward element targets will need to clearly set out the targets with and without reward element to identify the stretch in performance. **Pump-priming grant must be used only to aid delivery of the reward element stretched targets.**
- Gloucestershire Healthy Living Partnership will agree its long-list of outcomes on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Sally and Kaye have been invited to take part.

We need to work together to have something prepared by then and to be prepared to work together after this date on the further detail of baselines and the projects needed to deliver the enhanced performance for the LAA if this becomes an option. In any case we need to work together on a set of indicators for the revised affordable warmth strategy itself so that we can track progress in terms of outcomes over the next five years.

Wide support in the group for the inclusion of income maximisation as a key element of any fuel poverty target as well as energy efficiency. e.g. encouraging take up of Attendance Allowance would benefit from more partnership working.

The idea of a target based on success at so-called "fuel poverty proofing" homes by improving them to SAP energy rating 65 or above has been discussed at previous meetings. Constraints on this option were discussed.

SWEA have recently collected before and after SAP energy rating data from a sample of properties treated with basic, cost-effective energy saving measures through the Warm and Well scheme. The sample is small but indicates that most properties start with a SAP rating well below 65 and that many are improved to above this level. There are also the solid-walled homes that use the scheme to install loft insulation or draught-proofing only which start with a very low SAP and still

have a SAP well below 65 after treatment. Note also that this monitoring work is quite costly and needs resourcing if it is to be required on an ongoing basis.

| Action  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sally and Kaye to attend 6 June GHLP event.</li><li>• Papers used in today's discussion to be circulated with minutes for reference.</li><li>• Sally agreed to continue to coordinate the work on targets and the LAA in her Stroud DC capacity, during the next few months. Input will be needed from all interests in the AW partnership.</li><li>• Sally and Kaye to circulate next draft of targets for comment before 6 June.</li><li>• Sally to speak to further relevant contacts in county re option of a cross-cutting energy related target, which a fuel poverty target might form one part of e.g. Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Forum, Peter Wiggins.</li></ul> |

## 6. Annual Report

It was agreed that the annual report should be part of a five-year report to help communicate about the review of the strategy.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All partners to send Kaye brief info on 2005-06 achievements for inclusion in the report, Kaye will create initial draft of report.</li></ul> |

## 7. 5 - year review of Affordable Warmth Strategy

It was discussed that review should include establishing links with the new regional fuel poverty strategy, and an update of the evidence base.

Other comments were that the social housing content needed to given higher priority this time, and that partners should have space in the document to outline their organisations commitments to the issue.

| ACTION   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All members to identify their top three priorities from the strategy for the next meeting.</li></ul> |

## 8. Round the Table Partners Report

**PCT** – work on LAA

**EEAC** – line have been very busy due to increase in fuel costs.

**Warm and Well** – There was a request to contact Kerry Wallin and Clare Louise Nicholls at Cotswold and Vale PCT to identify opportunities for new or refresher staff briefings. It had also been a while since the Neighbourhood Wardens at Stroud District Council had had a briefing.

**Ashden Award** - has been selected as finalist

**GRCC** - 5 June - GRCC are holding a Bereavement Event at the Corn Hall in Cirencester. There will be another in September. In October there will be a Carers Event in Bishops Cleeve. Stephen Wright is leaving his post as GRCC Director.

**NEA** - 22 June - NEA South West Fuel Poverty Forum - All welcome - Wellspring Leisure Centre, Taunton. Will include regional launch of NEA's new "Heat is On" DVD in 15 languages. Contact Martin Eibl.

## **ACTION**

- Rebecca Billington to contact Cotswold and Vale PCT re Warm and Well briefings.
- Sally Daley to put Rebecca in touch with Paul Helbrow, Community Safety Manager re briefing the wardens.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006, venue SWEA, Mitcheldean

## **10. AOB**

### **Glossary**

- AW – Affordable Warmth
- CFL – Compact Fluorescent Lamp (energy efficient light bulb)
- EEAC- Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
- EEC- Energy Efficiency Commitment
- GHLP – Gloucestershire Healthy Living Partnership
- GSP – Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership
- GRCC- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
- HEC- Home Energy Check
- HECA – Home Energy Conservation Act
- HHSRS – Housing Health and Safety Rating System
- LA – Local Authority
- LAA – Local Area Agreement
- LASP – Local Authority Support Programme
- LSP- Local Strategic Partnership
- PCT- Primary Care Trust