

Action for Affordable Warmth Partnership

Notes from Steering Group Meeting 25th February 2005, Tewkesbury

Present: Stuart Wright (S. Glos. Council), Evelyn Nightingale (Pensions Service), Maggie Cornock (Stroud Care & Repair), Kaye Welfare (SWEA/ EEAC), Maria Hickman (Stroud District Council), Gary Packer (Cotswold District Council), Jessica Howell (Tewkesbury Borough Council).

Apologies: Louise Twinam (NEA), Tim Garland (Pensions Service), Lindsey Thomas (S. Glos PCT), Andrew Cross (Forest of Dean District Council), Fiona O'Driscoll (S. Glos Council), Barbara Piranty (GRCC), Pete Wiggins (Glos County Council), Diana Billingham (Gloucestershire Healthy Living Partnership), Helen Bown (W Glos PCT), Lyndfa Vater (SGC Social Services), Sarah Giff (SWEA/EEAC), Sam Robinson (EAGA), Giles Deane (S. Glos Care & Repair), Dilys Warren (Stroud DC).

1. Minutes of last meeting (10th Dec 2004): Agreed as accurate and true representation of meeting. Only action identified from last meeting-to arrange a sub group with relevant experience & contacts to look at issue of ensuring information is accessible to all. Meeting to be organised. **ACTION: KW to contact Adrian Goode**

2. Review of Terms of Reference: Last updated 2002. Various minor points identified:

- Reference to Glos Health Authority to be removed as no longer exists
- In section on 'ideally represented' add Home Repair Agencies, Pensions Service, CAB, Age Concern, GRCC
- Membership- Add that where appropriate reps will represent the Affordable Warmth partnership and feedback to other relevant groups i.e. Gary/ Jessica - HECA Group, Stroud DC rep (new position)- Sustainable Energy Group

ACTION: Partners to suggest other groups Affordable Warmth may need to be represented on. KW to check with Diana Billingham re PCT rep

- Chair & Secretary- remove line about Chair & Secretary being form HECA group initially as no longer relevant.
- Agenda & Minutes - remove line about minutes being produced/ circulated with in 14 days of meeting.

ACTION: SW to email KW electronic version of Terms of Reference. KW to update TOR and circulate at next meeting.

3. Review of Past Year's Topics : KW gave an over view of the topics which had been covered during last year's meetings and outcomes of these meetings. Good progress has been made tackling issues selected last year. May be more effective to deal with 3 main topics this year rather than 4:

- 24th September 2004- **Hospital Discharge** - as a result of meeting programme set up with Age Concern- since October information provided for hospital aftercare info packs. Info also provided for Cirencester hospital info packs. MH asked why it was currently only Cirencester hospital- KW responded that this resulted from request by hospital it is practically difficult in terms of time/ staff/ resources etc to deal with all hospitals, but will look for opportunities. More work could be done in this area. Funding for 10 more 'Active Warm & Well' training sessions has been secured from PCT for next year. Action: all AW group to look for opportunities to put info in hospital discharge packs.
- 10th December 2004 - **Access to Information for All**- sub group to be set up to look at this issue further. Copies of the energy efficiency video produced as part of 'Meeting the Energy Needs of the Deaf' project Nicky Swetnam (NEA) showed at this meeting are available to borrow from SWEA or more copies can be ordered from Nicky via Nottingham@nea.org.uk
- **Developing Links with CAB**- EEAC have done some combined promotions with CAB staff e.g. at B&Q in Cheltenham. Links with CAB have improved which demonstrates success of targeting particular groups/ contacts for Affordable Warmth meetings.
- **Private Sector Landlords**- Rent Warm Rent Well scheme very successful. HECA group keen to target this sector. Agreed HECA group to work on this and keep AW group up to date on progress.
- **Raising Awareness amongst Social Housing Providers**- EEAC/ LASP have facilitated some seminars. Now have an SLA with Forest of Dean Housing Association to provide energy advice services to their tenants. A proposal for similar SLA has been recently submitted to Fosseyway Housing. Raised that Housing Associations are under pressure to tackle energy efficiency/ affordable warmth issues due to Decent Homes Standard and their own Affordable Warmth Strategies.

KW reported SWEA successful bid (£12,900) from EST to produce 35,000 thermometer cards- 8-10 different versions for each of the main Social Housing Provider - with energy info and also contact details for Housing Provider. Will be distributed to all properties via Housing provide to raise awareness amongst tenants.

4. Review of Action Plan Activity to date: Due to the small number of Partnership members present, review of last year's activities was limited.

ACTION: Please could partners let Kaye or Jessica know of any relevant activities or contacts relating to Affordable Warmth that they are aware of.

Key issue raised about the action plan is it needs to be updated and revised (due for revision in 2006) as produced before Warm and Well scheme etc so some parts are no longer relevant and lots of progress has been made. Preparation for review could commence this year.

The following table summarises the objectives of the Affordable Warmth Strategy where future action was identified following discussion by the group.

Objective	Issues/ Future Action Identified	Potential Responsibility
AIM: Establish Effective Multi-Agency Partnerships		
Encourage inter-agency links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website- basic site produced in past - difficult/ time consuming to maintain & keep up to date. • MH suggested new Stroud rep may be able to investigate feasibility of site. • Alternatively Local Authority partners could include Affordable Warmth info on their own websites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly new Stroud rep to investigate feasibility of website • Local Authorities
Establish Referral System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral map & directory- partly done but difficult as no single system • Possibly set up sub-group to consider & identify gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible sub-group to be established
Business Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities but not high priority • Link to Glos Environmental Business Forum • Possible sponsorship by business for future events • May be focus work on staff within businesses rather than business energy use itself • Possible link to Business West (?) and Business Link- KW to liaise with Regional EEAC Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with Glos Environmental Business Forum
Establish Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overlap with objective of encouraging inter-agency links- review • May be useful to have list of groups and brief definition of what they do. EEAC already have basis for such list. Partners to email any relevant groups they know of. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners to forward details of any relevant groups they are aware of
Involve Landlords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HECA Group to take lead on this issue and link with Affordable Warmth group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HECA Group
AIM: Provide Energy Advice and Information to all Households		
Develop Coordinated Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now really undertaken by EEAC - review strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW Steering Group • EEAC
Train Key People to Provide Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing but always gaps • EEAC can offer tailor made courses • Discussion about City & Guilds & accredited courses • Possible Theme for future AW meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW Steering Group • EEAC
Make Advice Accessible to All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-group with experience/ contacts in this area to be set up • Possibly to report back on progress to AW group at future meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-group

Objective	Issues/ Future Action Identified	Potential Responsibility
AIM: Raise Awareness of Energy Efficiency And Affordable Warmth		
Improve Awareness in all Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing - possibly identify future target groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW Steering Group
Influence Decision Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential theme for future meeting Local Authority Members making decisions about budgets etc need to be informed and influenced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW Steering Group Local Authorities LASP?
Develop Educational Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWEA now have a 'Sustainable Energy Education Advisor' (Rachel) who will be working closely with schools, but to also provide education on energy in general. Possibly invite Rachel to future AW meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWEA Sustainable Energy Education Advisor AW Steering Group
Promotional Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing but more could always be done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW Steering Group members
AIM: Identify and Help People in Fuel Poverty		
Seek & find those at risk of fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly HECA group could add question to annual HECA survey related to fuel poverty to provide some data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly HECA Group
Train and Support Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlap with previous objective Training to be potential theme for future AW meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW Steering Group EEAC
Provide Support & Info to Those Most in Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again overlap with previous objectives Ongoing but difficult to tackle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW Steering Group
Develop Crisis Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future changes to Warm Front may partly address this issue so will wait and see outcome Very difficult to develop & implement a crisis link Discussion about oil-filled radiators which Cotswold DC provide as temporary measure- but could be difficult practically and risk of liability Warm and Well group could possibly look at provision of retrospective grants for emergency cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May partly be addressed by Warm Front Possibly Warm and Well group

Objective	Issues/ Future Action Identified	Potential Responsibility
AIM: Ensure that Housing Strategies Support the Issue		
Improve Energy Efficiency in All Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Data collection by HECA group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW Steering Group • Warm & Well Group • EEAC • HECA Group
Promote High Standards of Energy Efficiency in New Build Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of action plan needed as Building Regulations now cover a lot of this • However still room for improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW Steering Group • Link with Developers? • Link with Local Authority Building Control?
Improve Energy Efficiency in Existing Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Tackled partly through Warm and Well • Links/ SLA being made by EEAC with Social Housing Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW Steering Group • Warm and Well Group • EEAC
Provide Energy from Renewable Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LASP projects • Renewable Energy Forum & Glos Renewable Energy Strategy • Solar Warm and Well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LASP • Renewable Energy Forum
AIM: Access Sufficient Finance & Resources to Implement Action Plan		
Provide Info on Financial Assistance to Householders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing awareness events e.g. joint events EEAC with Benefits Agency. Pensions Service i.e. Boiling Benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW Steering Group Members • EEAC • Warm Front
Access Funding and Resources form Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities need to influence decision makers who control budget • Need to keep track of EEC 2 funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW Steering Group Members • Local Authorities • EEAC
Secure Funding Central Government, Energy Companies & National Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWEA submitting numerous bids for European funding • Possibly have another 'Project Brian Storming Day' as some of the ideas from the last day have been developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWEA • AW Steering Group Members

5. Potential Topics for Future Meetings:

- 19th May:**
- Influencing Key Decision Makers - tie in with event in September
 - Warm and Well Update- Sarah Giff
 - Possible update on energy education project- Rachel Close SWEA
 - Possible Warm Front update- Sam Robinson EAGA
- 15th Sept:**
- Plan review of AW Strategy for 2006 e.g. funding, timescale
 - Feedback from 'Access' sub-group
- 8th Dec:**
- Training & referral

ACTION: Kaye, Jessica & Sarah to draft Annual Report by next meeting

6. Information Exchange

Evelyn- Pensions Service: 'plug pulled' at present on all partnership activities- having to concentrate on Pensions credit as take up not as good as thought & targets to meet. Continues to tell residents receiving Pensions Credit about Warm Front/ Warm and Well.

Maggie- Stroud Care & Repair: continuing with 'Wise Scheme'. Always gives HEC forms out. Increase in enquiries since advert Wise Homes Advert in Stroud News and Journal

Stuart - S Glos Council: Somerset & Bristol setting up Affordable Warmth Partnership- would a SWEA rep be willing to attend their first meeting to offer them some advice/ experience? KW happy to attend. Possible opportunity for Affordable Warmth groups to meet in the future. Stuart asked the group if any objections to getting other relevant S Glos organisations involved e.g. CAB- group agreed they'd be welcome. As part of the South Gloucestershire NSF for older people, an Active Warm and Well briefing session is being run in May by SWEA to assess the feasibility of running an extended program in South Gloucestershire.

Maria- Stroud District Council: Advert for energy post currently out- closing date March 1st. Interviews scheduled for 11th March.

Gary- Cotswold District Council: Series of energy promotional events have taken place including 12 talks, 12 display stands etc. **ACTION:** Gary to forward full details for Annual Report. SW HECA Forum 18th March- will flag up Affordable Warmth.

Kaye- EEAC/ SWEA: SWEA Social Housing event 23rd March.

Energy Intelligent Europe Bids- social housing bid- KW requested letter of support from AW steering Group. Agreed letter would be signed by Jessica in role as secretary on behalf of group. Gary mentioned possibly getting signed letter of support from Housing Strategy Officers Group?

Project with Gloucester Prison- undertaken lot of work including advice surgeries at family centre. Also special family day- children drew pictures which will be included in a calendar. Very good training sessions with prisoners. Project feasibility study at present- may bid for implementation funding.

'Pass the Parcel' - project to have packs of leaflets/ goody bags to be distributed. These can then be passed on if recipient doesn't want it. This project is in the process of being developed by SWEA.

UK Public Health Forum- KW invited to talk about Affordable Warmth at UK Public Health Forum- good recognition.

7. AOB

MH- raised issue we've targeted elderly and disabled residents in past- but children under 5 also form part of 'vulnerable group'- could we target family centres etc? KW mentioned had been done work with families in past but it would be a good area to work on again. SWEA have recently received funding for Educational project FEEDU also EEAC now have 2 new energy advisors who are very keen to work with youth groups and schools.

8. Dates and Potential Locations of Next Meetings

19th May 2005 - Possibly Highnam PCT or if not Stroud District Council

15th September - Possibly Cotswold District Council

8th December - Possibly S Glos Council