

Action for Affordable Warmth Partnership

Notes from Steering Group Meeting 19th May, Stroud District Council

Present: Maggie Cornock (Stroud Car & Repair), Evelyn Nightingale (Pensions Service), Sally Daley (Stroud DC), Maria Hickman (Stroud DC), Tim Garland (Pensions Service), Stephen McDonald (Glos. City Council), Sarah Giff (Glos. EEAC), Kaye Welfare (Glos. EEAC - Chair), Stuart Wright (S Glos. Council), Barbara Piranty (GRCC), Pamela Ackerman (GOSW Regional Public Health Group), Diana Billingham (Glos. Healthy Living Partnership), Steve Cranston (NEA Wales), Mark Tibbeth (HECA Office Cardiff City Council), Martin Eibl (SW NEA & Devon Affordable Warmth Group), Rachel Close (SWEA), Andrew Cross (Forest of Dean DC), Jessica Howell (Tewkesbury BC- Secretary).

Apologies: Giles Deane (Hanover Housing), Lindsey Thomas (S Glos. PCT), Gary Packer (Cotswold DC), Andrew Banfield (Cheltenham & Tewkesbury PCT), Sam Robinson (EAGA), Lyndfa Vater (S Glos. Social Services)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Terms of Reference have been updated.

ACTION: KW/ JH to circulate via email.

Representation of Affordable Warmth on other relevant groups- most groups e.g. Sustainable Energy, HECA group, Older Persons Task Group, Chelt & Tewks Falls Group, PCTS all have representation.

ACTION: All partnership members to represent Affordable Warmth Group on any relevant groups and to feedback to AW Group.

Minutes agreed as being a true and accurate record of last meeting.

3. Update on FEEDU Project- Rachel Close SWEA

KW mentioned that Rachel had been invited to talk about the FEEDU project as it fits into the objective of Affordable Warmth Strategy on page 11 to raise awareness and develop an education programme and steering group to target teachers.

Rachel explained to the group that the FEEDU project (Glos. working title for Project = 'The Power to Change') is part of a European partnership (taking place in 10 other EU countries), working as a pilot initially with 10 schools in Gloucestershire.

Aim of project is to use year 5/6 children as an initial point of contact to deliver message about energy efficiency, sustainability and energy monitoring to.

Best practice is being taken from Europe and delivered at a local level. Teachers are actually given training and the skills themselves to enable the project to be more long term.

FEEDU activities will include open assemblies (to which parents are invited), family challenges. HECs will be issued as part of project. Links will also be made with Healthy Schools project across Gloucestershire.

A short list of schools for the project has been drawn up- trying to get coverage of schools in each Local Authority area. Some schools have been targeted due to demographics, geography or existing links with communities e.g. family centres.

Approx. 60 children per school will be taking part in project- but dissemination to other children in school & parents.

The project is funded for 2 years- but developed to be self-perpetuating. Resources will be disseminated nationally and internationally, and a website set up to support project dissemination.

BP mentioned that rural advice workers from GRCC are already working closely with rural schools and could assist in getting into schools.

4. Update on Warm and Well Scheme- Sarah Giff (Glos. EEAC)

Sarah explained she was giving the group an update on the Warm and Well scheme as it is an important practical tool in achieving some of the objectives of the Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Scheme launched same time as AW Strategy in Oct 2001. Warm and Well is now a self- sustaining scheme supported by all the Local Authorities in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire Council.

SG explained good relationships are key to the success of the scheme- lead for scheme (and steering Group) chaired by Mike Redman from Cheltenham Borough Council who has provided excellent support. The steering group is made up of LA reps, reps from PCT and EEAC.

Also good relationship with installers and Scottish Power (for EEC funding) has also enabled success of scheme.

2004-2005 Results

If anyone wants a copy of the Warm and Well Annual Report please contact Sarah.

- 3737 enquiries – large proportion generated by word of mouth.
- Measures installed & improved 1800 properties with LA and EEC funding
- Over 600 referrals to Government Warm Front Scheme
- Total value of measures installed = £1.2. million (excluding Warm Front grants)
- Climate Changed – saved 40,000 tonnes of carbon

Promotional Work for Warm and Well

Work very closely with contractors who undertake canvassing. They don't undertake doorstep sales (work under Government Protocol), but do canvass particular areas.

Work also taken place with Age Concern in Gloucester regarding hospital discharge schemes. When a worker goes into client's house to make the comfortable after coming out of hospital they leave a bag Warm & Well and other relevant information & CFL- hoping client will look at information at a later stage. Scheme being called 'Pass the Parcel' – hoping to expand the scheme so people visiting clients in their home e.g. Pensions Service. Care & Repair, can pass info on. Discussions taking place with BBC Radio Gloucester for promotion. AW Partnership also good group to promote scheme.

Issue raised about how packs should be distributed by AW members who are in a position to do so. SG mentioned physically getting packs together, distributed & storing them is biggest difficulty. If small scale SWEA should be able to do it- if large volume individual organisations may be asked to assist.

Alma- energy advisor at EEAC is contact for Age concern for getting packs out.

ACTION: Any AW partners able to distribute packs, or who want more info on the scheme contact Alma on: alma@swea.co.uk or tel: 01594 544259

Active Warm and Well

Continues to be successful- over 300 people trained last year.

Briefing sessions for Health & Social Care professionals and anyone working with older people.

Sessions covers the following topics and the links between them:
Physical Activity, Cold Damp Homes, Falls Prevention, Nutrition

Referrals to Warm and Well scheme form Health Professionals are not great in quantity but the quality of referrals are good- people who really need help. Noticed marked increase in referrals since the Active Warm and Well sessions.

Funded by PCT- 5 more sessions booked form now until Oct- also plans to extend to S Glos. If anyone wants to attend or knows of someone who it would be of value for him or her to attend a training session please contact Sarah

5. Update on NEA SW Work- Martin Eibl

Martin thanked the group for inviting him. He explained he had only started his job in January.

ME explained that NEA (National Energy Action) had been in operation for 20 years across the Country, raising awareness of insulation and heating problems, particularly for vulnerable groups and low income households.

NEA undertake lots of research and produce publications. Recent publications which may be of interest to group are on hard to treat homes and Affordable Warmth and housing transfers.

NEA now developing regional network and want to work more closely with regional bodies. Martin's role is to support Affordable Warmth at a strategic level, getting partners to share best practice and disseminating info.

6. Facilitated Discussion on Targeting Key Decision Makers

KW pointed out that one of the objectives of the AW Strategy (pg 11) is to influence decision makers. Although group already in touch with some key decision makers need to look at ways to influence / raise awareness with others.

Diana raised issue that we need to **link with the existing priorities** of decision makes e.g. Public Health- equality agenda. Within Councils issues are decent homes standards and Climate change. DB mentioned she could always try and get an invite for KW to attend a Healthy & Well Being Partnership meeting.

KW raised that EEAC were always happy to give talks etc- but that the AW partnership need to work together to raise profile of AW partnership and AW issues- need to make sure we are aware of events/ strategies etc before they happen.

ACTION: AW Partnership members to raise awareness of Affordable Warmth at suitable meetings etc and keep EEAC informed of any future events/ strategies that may be being developed so that can have an input.

Discussion by the group about the **importance of linking with Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP)**, as key body for local work to be undertaken.

KW mentioned that where possible LSP has been attending LSP meetings and raising Affordable Warmth/ Energy issues where possible e.g. recently attended Tewkesbury LSP Stakeholders Conference. However there is not a rep for AW on each District LSP as they are not really structured to enable this.

Stephen mentioned that most LSPs were still finding their way in what they should be doing. Raised that LSPs should see the EEAC/ AW partnership as doing essential work. KW raised we want AW Partnership to be recognised as the group delivering projects on the ground.

ME mentioned that there were similar problems in Don and that they were only just forging links with LSPs.

KW raised that the AW Strategy was launched before LSPs were set up, so work had already been going on but not recognised. SG mentioned that Warm and Well is recognised but the AW partnership is perhaps not as well recognised.

Issue of Local Area Agreements raised. New round of pilots currently underway. Potential for AW to be on agenda & also then possibility of funding.

County GSP- KW raised need to concentrate on contacts on GSP. Also need a rep from Gloucestershire County Council on AW Partnership (Pete Wiggins from Glos CC had been invited to AW meeting).

ACTION: KW & SD to make contact with GSP

Event to target Key Decision Makers

KW mentioned that hoping to hold an event in September to invite decision makers to and raise awareness. KW asked the group for any ideas.

Sally mentioned that at event could give warning that AW Strategy will be reviewed in 2006, and hoping to align with priorities & key themes of Local Authority Community Strategies.

KW mentioned further to successful pledge event held last year, could get new individuals/ organisations to sign up to pledge but also existing signatories to re-pledge- to start off the process of reviewing AW strategy.

Event to celebrate success of AW related work but also to discuss how to move things forward. Stephen mentioned it would be useful to have presentations from other agencies & AW Partners at the event.

ACTION: Subgroup to be set up to develop ideas for Sept event further- will keep rest of AW group informed (Sub-group: Kaye Welfare, Diana Billingham, Sally Daley, Jessica Howell).

7. AW Partnership Annual Report

KW circulated draft version of AW Annual Report 2004/2205, and asked for any comments, additions etc.

Mentioned that trying to keep it simple, short so that as many people read it as possible.

Projects have been identified briefly.

ACTION: Stuart Wright to forward info on Warmer Lets project to KW.

Wise Homes- Maria mentioned major part of scheme is giving advice, and suggested wording in Annual report is reworded to emphasise this. KW to speak to Paul about it. Wise Homes is a project between Stroud & Cotswold District Council to tackle homes with sloping ceilings & solid walls.

ACTION: Maria Hickman to forward average cost of Wise Home work for each property to Martin Eibl

Money Matters project – Barbara raised issue of Money Matters project- GRCC working with Age Concern in Gloucester. Ran series of events for older people concerned with general money matters e.g. wills, inheritance tax- often those who are cash poor but asset rich. Independent speakers at event (not selling) including local solicitors. Events very successful 80-90 people. Dependent on funding but could run similar events across County. Sentence to be added about project to report.

Solar Warm and Well – Stephen raised that some info should be added to report.

Prisons Project- KW gave details of this project SWEA have been working on. Feasibility project- working with inmates and their families in Gloucester Prison. Approx. 100 families targeted- calendar produced as part of family work. Looking to extend project in SW and S Wales and looking at getting training course for inmates accredited.

ACTION: KW to send Martin Eibl feasibility report for project.

Park Homes Insulation Project S Glos- Now Completed

ACTION: Stuart to send KW details

SLA with Social Housing Providers- KW explained hoping to get SLA with Housing Associations for EEAC to provide energy advice and home visits to their tenants. Forest of Dean and Fosseyway are interested. Proposals also sent to other Housing Associations.

Local Authority Members training- add sentence to report on training that has taken place for Cheltenham & Tewkesbury BC Members.

Stroud District Council Beacon Status – sentence to be added to report on this

ACTION: Maria/ Sally to send info to KW on above to KW.

Key Achievements 2004/2005- figures required from S Glos.

ACTION: Stuart to forward KW relevant figures.

8. Partners Feedback & Project Update.

Most projects updated during meeting anyway.

Barbara Piranty- GRCC runs Calor Village of Year Award- competition for villages with various categories. Two new categories this year- Safe Communities & Healthy Communities. Potential to have a category for energy in the future- good to raise profile. Planning for next year's competition will take place De/ Jan.

ACTION: BP to keep KW informed about Award scheme

9.AOB

Access to information- a meeting needs to be arranged for sub-group

Barbara raised issue of POPs bid (Partnership Older People)- Stroud & Cotswold DC. In initial stages.

ACTION: Sally to follow up about this and feedback to EEAC

Evelyn asked group if everyone was aware of event Chelt & Tewks PCT & Glos. CC are running **June 16th Cheltenham Town Hall 10am-3pm**- EEAC will be attending with Warm and Well display as very useful last year.

Sarah mentioned 'Bulb for Bulb' event running with BBC Radio Glos- (June in Gloucester) where listeners will be encouraged to bring along a flower bulb in exchange for a CFL (if they fill in HEC). Bulbs will then be planted in June in Gloucester. Good to raise profile.

KW mentioned had been working with Welfare/ Benefit take up campaign to produce thousands of bookmarks promoting Warm and Well- if anyone wants any let Kaye know.

Sarah mentioned new group called Glos. Voices Against Elder Abuse. Charity that is being set up to highlight issues of abuse against older people. Sarah mentioned as new group setting up they may be beneficial to AW group in terms of networking and vice versa. Group agreed happy to invite them to next AW meeting.

NEXT Meeting:

15th September 2005

Venue to be confirmed but possible Cotswold District Council (if not will be Stroud).

Glossary

- AW – Affordable Warmth
- CFL – Compact Fluorescent Lamp (energy efficient light bulb)
- EEAC- Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
- EEC- Energy Efficiency Commitment
- GRCC- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
- HEC- Home Energy Check
- HECA – Home Energy Conservation Act
- LA – Local Authority
- LASP – Local Authority Support Programme
- LSP- Local Strategic Partnership
- PCT- Primary Care Trust