

Action for Affordable Warmth Partnership

30th November 2006 10.00-12.30 Committee Room, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill Stroud GL5 4UB
Notes of meeting

1. Present

Chair: Kaye Welfare (Glos. Energy Efficiency Advice Centre Manager, SWEA)
Diana Billingham (Cheltenham & Tewkesbury PCT / Glos. Healthy Living Partnership), **Sally Daley** (Stroud DC), **Maria Hickman** (Stroud DC) **Gary Packer** (Cotswold DC), **Stephen McDonnell** (Gloucester City Council), **Debby Paice** (South Glos. Council), **Barbara Piranty** (Glos. Rural Community Council), **Mark Nelson** (Cheltenham BC)

Apologies

Several, including: Evelyn Nightingale (The Pension Service), **Phil Bennett** (Primary Care Trust), **Sarah Giff** (Warm and Well Scheme Coordinator, SWEA), **Maggie Cornock** (Care & Repair Stroud Ltd), **Martin Eibl** (National Energy Action), **Tim Garland** (Pension Service South Glos).

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising (13.07.06)

Minutes of last meeting agreed to be an accurate record

- **Progress of Actions arising from minutes**

5 year review of Affordable Warmth Strategy – On main agenda

3. Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement update

DB and KW gave a comprehensive overview of the development of the LAA outcome 'more resilient homes' and advised the AWP on the next stage of the process.

The outcome is split into three performance indicators:

- No. of measures installed (insulation and heating) via Warm and Well
- Householders advised on energy efficiency
- Homes occupied by vulnerable people made decent

There is also a relevant outcome 'more resilient communities'. This includes a target to increase the number of renewable energy installations in domestic, public sector and community buildings.

The outcome is in a 'near final draft' and will be submitted to the Government office for the South West (GOSW) by the end of December 2006.

Partners asked about the scope of the agreement, timescale, accountability and the reward grant. It was explained that the LAA is county-wide and is a 3 year agreement with an annual review, it is hoped the AWP will be closely involved with progressing the outcome above. The reward grant is only paid after the target is achieved and is not ringfenced – partners would need to lobby to secure a share. Non-stretch funding will mostly be used to pay for a project manager/coordinator.

MH raised some concern about the potential for some LAs doing more than other LAs in achieving the targets. KW acknowledged there is some risk of this and it will need careful monitoring.

There was a discussion over the issue of including benefit take-up and SAP ratings within the targets. BP said that Village Agents look to refer people to receive benefit advice but that there is

some concern over their workload as they are only contracted to do 10 hours per week. Nevertheless they are seen as part of the delivery mechanism. SAP ratings are problematic to use as a target but it was agreed that it is desirable to report on the change in SAP achieved.

The delivery mechanism requires much further discussion but it was noted that key budgets would be the Private Sector Renewal budget and any budgets used for Warm and Well.

The County Council's website contains updated documents on the LAA:
<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=12808>

4. Affordable Warmth Annual Report

A draft report was distributed in the meeting. A final version will be circulated soon. Partners expressed the view that the Report should reflect the effort that has been put into development of the LAA.

ACTION – Kaye
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include LAA information in Annual Report and circulate full Report to AWP.

5. 5 Year Review of Strategy

The Strategy needs to reflect the LAA so the review will be delayed until March 2007. It was agreed it would be appropriate for sub-groups (e.g. HECA, Private Sector Housing Strategy, GLOMAS, et al) to brainstorm the Strategy content using a 'crib sheet' to guide discussions.

An open meeting would be held to bring in a broader range of stakeholders. The list in the current Strategy is a good starting point but partners expressed the need to include better representation for families.

The revised strategy would be reprinted and include the role of different partners and not just a simple list. It was agreed that the action plan needed to be improved and made more suitable for monitoring.

ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kaye to circulate 'crib-sheet'.• All to prepare for push on this in the New Year.

6. Round the Table

KW – Kaye thanked DB and GP for speaking at the recent Warm and Well Ashden Conference. There was a good range of topics covered to keep the 60+ attendees entertained.

SD – Sally updated partners about the recent regional NEA Forum. The Forum looked at LAA development in other parts of the South West. The partnership approach of Gloucestershire compares favourably with more insular development elsewhere.

DB – Di gave an outline of the changes resulting from restructuring of the PCT. Further information on the PCT's website: <http://www.glospct.nhs.uk/default.htm>

SMD – Stephen gave details on a project between SWEA and Gloucester City Homes to install solar panels on social housing and central heating in approximately 200 homes that are currently without it. There is going to be a pilot project to help improve the energy efficiency of hard to treat homes. The City Council's Climate Change Strategy goes to Cabinet later in the month and affordable warmth is included in it.

GP – Gary said that CDC will be ending the use of Disabled Facilities Grants to fund ‘electric wet central heating’ systems. These have been specified by social housing providers for many years but tenants complain of very high running costs.

MN – Mark is now the representative on the AWP for CBC.

BP – Barbara said that GRCC held an event with Gloucestershire First attended by approximately 200 people. The Rural Economic Strategy was discussed at the workshops with climate change and renewable energy emerging as issues of concern – there will be an opportunity to comment on this (details will be in the GRCC newsletter). Village Agent clusters were outlined and all 30 Agents have been recruited.

DP – Debby gave an update on the progress of the South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement and parallels with the Gloucestershire experience. Kaye agreed to share knowledge as needed.

MH – Maria reminded the AWP that this would be Sally Daley’s last meeting before maternity leave.

KW – Kaye thanked Sally for her contribution to the AWP on behalf of members and looked forward to welcoming her back post-baby!

7. AOB

The Regional Low Carbon Housing and Fuel Poverty Strategy was discussed. Kaye will send a comment on the draft from the group mentioning that AW Partnerships need to be recognised in the strategy.

8. Next meeting

Thursday 8th March 2007, 2.00pm, at Stroud District Council Offices, Ebley Mill, GL5 4UB.

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
- LESP – Local Energy Support Programme
- LEST – Local Energy Support Team
- LSP- Local Strategic Partnership
- NEA – National Energy Action
- PCT- Primary Care Trust
- SWEA – Severn Wye Energy Agency