

Action for Affordable Warmth

Second Annual Report of the Glos. & S. Glos. Affordable Warmth Partnership
November 2002–October 2003

This report highlights the achievements and activities of the Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Partnership over the last year. Further details of the Partnership can be found at www.actionforaffordablewarmth.org.uk.

Key achievements since last report

The Partnership has been very busy in developing new and innovative ways to spread the affordable warmth message over the past year:

- Active, Warm & Well - Severn Wye Energy Agency has secured funding from the 3 Gloucestershire Primary Care Trusts to deliver briefing sessions for health care professionals. The briefings will promote a holistic approach to “successful ageing”, including information on keeping warm at home and through being active, supporting the Trusts’ work on the Older People National Service Framework.
- Fuel Poverty Indicator Maps - the Centre for Sustainable Energy has produced maps showing areas at risk of fuel poverty on a District basis. These maps are being used in leaflets for raising awareness amongst key decision-makers.
- Speakers attended two of the year’s Partnership meetings - William Baker from Centre for Sustainable Energy gave a presentation in March on the development of the Fuel Poverty Indicator. Sarah Allen from Luton BC, one of the Fuel Poverty Beacon Councils, attended the June meeting to disseminate Luton’s experience of working in partnership to deliver affordable warmth.

Bringing Benefits to the Boil

The Pensions Service, a key partner agency, joined forces with the Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre and the Post Office in March to promote energy efficiency and benefits take-up, at Boiling Benefits Roadshows.

These events were held at six Post Offices across Gloucestershire, where members of the public could get energy advice, a “Benefits Health Check” and for the over 60’s, a free low energy jug kettle. BBC Radio Gloucestershire supported the events with regular live broadcasts and interviews throughout the day.

Over 300 people received advice, many being referred to the Warm & Well scheme. The EEAC estimates this event will have saved Gloucestershire households £10,680 per year on their fuel bills. South Gloucestershire Council is planning to replicate these events in 2004 with the Bristol & Somerset EEAC.

Partnership receives ACE accolade

The Partnership has been singled out in recognition of its work to tackle fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth for all. Impetus Consulting, working with the Association for the Conservation of Energy, conducted a review of the fuel poverty reports and strategies produced by English Energy Conservation Authorities.



The Affordable Warmth Partnership has been selected as an example of Good Practice and forms one of 10 case studies in the Eaga Partnership Charitable Trust commissioned report. The Partnership has successfully involved dozens of external organisations in tackling fuel poverty in the region and the case study takes a particular focus on the Partnership's approach to building and maintaining external partnerships.

Improving access to affordable warmth through practical action

The two main energy efficiency schemes, Warm & Well and Warmer Lets, continue to make good progress in improving the energy efficiency of homes across the Partnership area. The latest figures from both schemes are:



Enquiries to Warm & Well scheme	7,234
Number of properties improved	4,114
Referrals to Warm Front (as at end March 2003)	1,019



No. properties improved across Warmer Lets area	293
Value of energy efficiency works across Warmer Lets area	£755,463

Making Action for Affordable Warmth work in practice

The work of the Partnership is facilitated by a Co-ordinating Group that arranges meeting content, venues, secures speakers, monitors the Action Plan and promotes the Partnership and its work on a local, regional and national basis. Since the launch of the strategy, the Co-ordinating Group has consisted of Lisa Jones, Sally Daley and Kaye Welfare.

Reporting our progress

The Partnership has now produced two annual reports since the launch of the strategy in October 2001. Future reports will follow the financial year cycle; enabling full figures from the various projects with which the Partnership is involved to be reported on. The next report will be issued in summer 2004, based upon activities in the 2003/04 financial year.

Plan for the year ahead

Following a review of the activities of the last 12 months against the Action Plan targets and objectives, the following areas have been identified as being key for the year ahead:

- Develop working links with CABs
- Work with Private Sector Landlords
- Raise awareness and understanding amongst social housing tenants
- Ensure advice is accessible to all
- Improve links with hospital discharge / admission prevention services

Ongoing areas of work include influencing decision-makers, training and supporting voluntary sector workers, identify opportunities for targeting and keeping up to speed with changes to benefits and pensions.

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