



Action for affordable warmth

Welcome to Wolverhampton Affordable Warmth News! Affordable Warmth is hitting new heights in the City. The new website has now gone live so you can keep in touch with the latest developments from the action group; it's all only a few clicks away. Why not make a visit now!

www.wolverhampton-affordable-warmth.org.uk

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Warm Zone – addressing fuel poverty in All Saints and Blakenhall

The first phase of the Warm Zone project in the All Saints and Blakenhall New Deal for Communities area was completed and evaluated last year. Phase 1, which concentrated on fuel poverty mainly in Council owned properties, exceeded targets and achieved considerable success with the development and implementation of an Affordable Warmth programme. A second phase is now up and running, bringing similar benefits to private sector homes.

Approval for funding came from the New Deal for Communities board and the Government Office West Midlands. The programme includes:



- A survey of all private sector properties on a street-by-street basis.
- Free insulation measures to all private households.
- Referral of eligible households for appropriate grants, advice and assistance.
- New Deal funding to extend the availability of grants and assistance.
- Assistance to privately rented properties.
- Referrals to other projects, for example to include security and safety measures.
- Collecting information to help plan for Phase 3.

Look out for the surveyors in your area soon!

For more information please contact Alison Crane on 01902 552797
alison.crane@wolverhampton.gov.uk



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Graiseley flats receive insulation from council

Three blocks of council owned flats in Graiseley have recently been receiving external wall insulation as part of a large refurbishment scheme.



This project includes the fitting of photovoltaic panels to one of the blocks as a renewable energy initiative.



Warm Front contributes to Affordable Warmth

A young mother from Wolverhampton can look forward to warmer winters thanks to a Warm Front Grant.

Ken Purchase, MP for Wolverhampton North East, and Angie Anderton, Eaga Partnership's Network Liaison Officer for the West Midlands, went to visit Miss Aheer to find out more about the impact of the installation of loft insulation in her home.



Miss Aheer explained that there had been a noticeable improvement in warmth and comfort since the insulation was installed, "The Warm Front grant has been very beneficial, helping us as a young family to save money on the household budget."

Ken Purchase MP, who took along some energy saving light bulbs to give to Miss Aheer, added, "As well as helping people save money, these energy saving schemes are a vital part of the Government's environmental policies."

NEA Energy Champion

NEA's Primary Care Trust (PCT) Energy Champion scheme helps PCTs to integrate fuel poverty policies and programmes into the delivery of their Local Plans, ensuring that mechanisms are in place to bring about co-ordinated referrals from health service staff to energy efficiency schemes. NEA offers training and support as well as £1,000 towards the project costs.

Wolverhampton PCT's Energy Champion, Hilary Williams, is busy raising awareness amongst health workers of the links between fuel poverty and cold, damp related illnesses. Training, which is tailored to suit the needs of different groups of health professionals, has been enthusiastically received by community paediatricians and pharmacists, nursery nurses, Sure Start staff, health visitors and children's nurses, with further plans to train community midwives and neo-natal unit staff.



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Affordable Warmth Facts

The Affordable Warmth Grant scheme for Wolverhampton has so far helped over 350 private sector homes across the city.

As a direct result of this work, substantial reductions in CO2 emissions have been achieved.

Since its launch in 2000, the Affordable Warmth Grant scheme has allocated £250,000 of funding each year to help those most in need in the City.

Wolverhampton Affinity Partnership

Wolverhampton City Council has been piloting a scheme in the North East of the City, which signs up all vacant council properties in the area to have their fuel supplied by Scottish Power.



As well as giving tenants one less thing to think about during the moving in process, the Partnership enables the Council to deal with any problems swiftly and effectively.

The initial tariff offered is highly competitive but tenants are completely free to choose whether they wish to stay with Scottish Power once they've settled in.

Due to the success of the pilot, plans to roll out the scheme across all vacant council properties in Wolverhampton are now being implemented.

Affordable Warmth success story

Another Affordable Warmth success story comes from Hylston Crescent, where a gentleman suffering from cystic fibrosis has had some health improving changes made to his property.



Mr Rollinson's heating system was so old and unreliable that it was judged to be a risk to his health. He was immediately prioritised on the Affordable Warmth grant list and the ball was rolling for his efficient new heating system to be installed.

As a result of the improvements, his property has become more energy efficient, and its carbon dioxide emissions have decreased substantially. So, not only will Mr Rollinson have a warmer, healthier home and save over £100 per year on his fuel bills, but he has also done his bit to reduce the effects of climate change.





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If you have any news or stories that you would like to see in the next Affordable Warmth newsletter you can e-mail them to:
chris.shears@hestiaservices.co.uk

The Affordable Warmth Partnership working as a team

Mrs. Waruszynska, an elderly Polish lady, was left with difficulties communicating after a stroke. She was referred to the Wolverhampton Falls Prevention Service because of her poor balance and mobility. Following the home assessment visit, which revealed that inadequate heating forced her to live in one room only during the day, she was referred to Health Through Warmth.



Having been unable to make contact to arrange a site visit Health Through Warmth approached Saskia Poller, of Wolverhampton PCT, who was quickly able to set up a joint visit with herself and a surveyor from Affordable Warmth. When, at a subsequent meeting, Saskia found that the nominated contractor had also been unable to contact Mrs.

Waruszynska, Saskia was once again able to organise a joint visit.

Mrs Waruszynska's application was submitted and her home has now been fitted with a new central heating system.

The npower Health Through Warmth scheme has been operating in Wolverhampton since 2001 assisting people whose health is affected by living in cold, damp homes. To date over 700 key workers have received Health Through Warmth training, which has resulted in over 1180 referrals being made on behalf of their clients. For more information please contact Tom Winckley on 01902 551346

tom.winckley@wolverhampton.gov.uk

If you would like to find out more about any of the grants and schemes mentioned in this news letter you can contact your local **Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** on free phone:

0800 512 012

