



Action for affordable warmth

Welcome to Wolverhampton Affordable Warmth News! This issue brings you up to date with the latest news about the CoPE project, advice surgeries across the city, the signing of the Wolverhampton Declaration and the Health Through Warmth scheme. For more information from the action group, visit:

www.wolverhampton-affordable-warmth.org.uk

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Brand new central heating system and insulation measures for Portobello couple.

Mr and Mrs Green from Portobello have been able to enjoy a warmer winter this year as a result of a new central heating system and cavity wall insulation installed courtesy of the npower Health Through Warmth scheme. Mr and Mrs Green's property was cold and damp without any insulation and inadequate heating. As Mr Green has arthritis, the couple were referred to the Health Through Warmth scheme and were able to get a grant to cover the whole cost of the works.



Mrs Green and Tom Winckley, Wolverhampton City Council

Mrs Green said "The new central heating system is really making a difference in helping us to keep our home warm, which is important for my husband's well-being and comfort."

Tom Winckley, Energy Efficiency Officer for Wolverhampton, added: "This scheme plays a vital role in Wolverhampton by helping local residents, such as Mrs Green and her husband, whose health is adversely affected by living in a cold or damp property."

Since April 2006, the Council's Affordable Warmth Grants have installed full central heating systems and insulation measures in 87 households across Wolverhampton. Many of these referrals have come through the Health Through Warmth Scheme which has identified 335 people in the last 12 months who are at risk due to illnesses such as diabetes, angina or stroke that are affected by the cold.

If you know of anyone who lacks proper heating or would benefit from insulation please call the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012 or go to www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/energy for more information.



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The Wolverhampton Declaration has been signed

Wolverhampton City Council has signed the Nottingham Declaration, and renamed it the Wolverhampton Declaration, in a bid to address the causes and effects of climate change.

The Nottingham Declaration was originally launched in 2000 but marked its fifth anniversary with a re-launch in December 2005. It has since been signed by over 200 local authorities, each with a shared focus of tackling climate change.

The Council is devising a Climate Change Action Plan and set up a Climate Change Working Group in order to implement it. The Plan will set out targets to help local residents, businesses and organisations to reduce energy use and traffic congestion, thereby reducing CO2 emissions. There will also be guidance offered on how to adapt to the impacts of climate change, improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.

Tom Winckley, Energy Officer at Wolverhampton City Council, is based at the Civic Centre.

A household is generally regarded as living in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on providing adequate warmth – defined by the World Health Organisation as 21°C in living rooms and 18°C in other occupied rooms.

Graiseley refurbishment completed

A ribbon cutting ceremony heralded the start of a new era for residents at Graiseley Court Sheltered Scheme, Russell Court and Grosvenor Court in Graiseley, following the major refurbishment of the tower blocks.

A council spokesman said: "It has enhanced the skyline of the City's eastern gateway while creating environmentally efficient homes the community can really be proud of."

The refurbishment included the installation of photovoltaic panels to help reduce electric bills along with external wall cladding, new heating systems, and new windows, all contributing to the improved thermal efficiency of the blocks.



Residents received flowers for participating in the consultation

Detailed consultation with residents and stakeholders took place at every stage of the scheme and was been a key element in making the project a success. Resident Clarice Wallace, said: "I have been in the block for 47 years. I will be 92 this year and the oldest resident in the block. The overall improvements are fantastic. All visitors are amazed at the work and I feel very proud to be living here."



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Health Through Warmth Training

Over seven hundred people have now received Health Through Warmth training, ranging from Council staff to health professionals.

They are now able to make referrals directly to the scheme, helping them to make a difference to the lives of the people they work with.

Hospital patients receive free low energy light bulbs and energy efficiency advice

Wolverhampton City Council and the Wolverhampton Energy Efficiency Advice Centre worked together to provide an energy advice surgery to staff and patients at the West Park Hospital on Friday 23rd February. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the City's npower Health Through Warmth scheme and, as a result, a number of staff signed up to a free Health Through Warmth training session to enable them to make referrals to the scheme.

Health Through Warmth is a scheme aimed at helping to tackle the problem of fuel poverty. The scheme arranges the installation of heating systems and energy efficiency measures for vulnerable people with cold-related illnesses.

Hundreds of hospital patients were given free low energy light bulbs and advice on how to improve the energy efficiency of their homes in a bid to reduce their fuel bills and improve their levels of comfort.

To arrange a Health Through Warmth training session, health professionals contact Hilary Williams on 01902 444064. For other professionals seeking training, contact Tom Winckley on 01902 551346

New central heating system for arthritis sufferer

Mrs Florence Evans has severe arthritis in all her joints. Her condition is so extreme that she has degenerative change in her hands, and lumbar spine and knees.

Mrs Evans' heating system was 30 years old and had broken down forcing her to use a small portable blow heater, which was having a detrimental effect on her health.

Her physiotherapist referred her case to Health Through Warmth as she couldn't afford to replace the heating system herself. Health Through Warmth acted quickly to fit a new central heating system in her property before the onset of the cold winter months.

Mrs Evans and her family are extremely grateful to npower Health Through Warmth.



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Wolverhampton school children learn to CoPE with energy efficiency skills

Thirteen out of nineteen secondary schools in Wolverhampton are currently benefiting from a new qualification scheme for 16-19 year olds known as CoPE. The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness is a national qualification scheme aiming to accredit less academic students with the equivalent of a GCSE qualification.

The qualification enables candidates to demonstrate a range of key, personal and employment-related skills leading to 'personal effectiveness.' Students gain credits by completing challenges from chosen modules and providing evidence of achievement in the form of a portfolio.



Deborah Cartwright in the classroom helping raise energy efficiency awareness through schools

Deborah Cartwright from Hestia Managed Services provides assistance to groups completing modules in the Environment and Science and Technology topic areas. She discusses energy efficiency and environmental issues with the students and coordinates activities to help them complete these modules.

Deborah said, "CoPE is a fantastic new scheme providing less-able students with a framework for developing their key skills and is a great opportunity to teach young people about energy efficiency."

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



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