



# Action for affordable warmth

Welcome to Wolverhampton Affordable Warmth News Winter 2009!  
This issue brings you up to date with the latest news about new schemes which are up and running across the city and beyond.

For more information from the action group, visit:  
[www.wolverhampton-affordable-warmth.org.uk](http://www.wolverhampton-affordable-warmth.org.uk)

## MP CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF HEALTH THROUGH WARMTH SCHEME IN WOLVERHAMPTON

npower's Health Through Warmth scheme is celebrating after making its 2,000th referral in Wolverhampton. In recognition of this impressive milestone, the scheme hosted a special event with speeches by the Right Hon Pat McFadden MP, Director of Public Health Dr. Adrian Philips, Councillor Barry Findlay, Cabinet Member for Environment at Wolverhampton City Council and Rob Knight, npower's Energy Services Policy Manager.

Representatives from PCT, Wolverhampton City Council, Age Concern, voluntary agencies and other local organisations attended to hear about the benefits the scheme could offer to people they encounter on a day to day basis. Guests also learnt more about the free training offered by the scheme to enable community workers to become scheme referrers.

Right Hon Pat McFadden commented: "Health Through Warmth is an invaluable scheme offering a lifeline to many of the city's residents. It is a fantastic achievement to have reached 2,000 referrals and I would like to congratulate everyone involved.

"Cold and damp related illnesses can affect people of any age and the scheme has become an important resource to our city. I hope it is something that will continue to be available for Wolverhampton residents in years to come."



From left to right:  
Pat McFadden (MP),  
Rob Knight (npower),  
Dr Adrian Philips (PCT),  
David Lord (Age Concern),  
Saskia Poller (Falls Prevention Service - PCT),  
Tom Winckley (Wolverhampton Health Through Warmth) and Cllr Barry Findlay

### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HEALTH THROUGH WARMTH

For more information and to apply, please call the Energy Saving Trust on freephone **0800 512 012**.

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Elaine Midwinter, manager for the Health Through Warmth scheme, added: "Autumn is a good time of year for people to start thinking about the health problems associated with cold and damp homes. The milestone celebration is a timely reminder for Wolverhampton residents that help is available and any vulnerable person whose health is adversely affected by these sorts of living conditions may be eligible for the scheme."

npower's Health Through Warmth scheme is a practical scheme that operates in 14 areas of England and Wales. Since the scheme was first launched in Wolverhampton in May 2001, Health Through Warmth has facilitated more than £2,763,485 worth of heating and insulation measures for local residents, £207,318 of which has been paid for by the unique npower Health Through Warmth crisis fund.



From left to right: Mark Hamilton (Hestia), Tom Winckley (Wolverhampton Health Through Warmth) and Katie Morrow (Wolverhampton City Council Sustainability Unit)

The scheme, which is managed locally by Wolverhampton City Council, helps vulnerable residents affected by cold and damp related illnesses, by assisting with heating and insulation measures, as well as offering advice on energy efficiency.

## WARM FRONT FOR PRIVATE RENTED PROPERTIES

The Warm Front Grant is a government funded scheme to help owner-occupiers and tenants who rent their home from a private landlord, make improvements to the heating, loft insulation and cavity wall insulation in their home. Recent changes in the criteria mean tenants can now get their gas boilers repaired under the scheme.

The Warm Front Grant offers up to £3,500 for properties that require gas central heating as well as loft and cavity wall insulation. naga will complete the first two annual gas safety inspections where gas central heating is installed. The tenant or landlord can apply for measures to be installed in the property, however if the tenant applies then Warm Front will always seek permission from the landlord before any work is carried out.

If Warm Front provides loft or cavity wall insulation in a private rented property the landlord must not increase the rent for one year after the measures have been installed. If heating equipment is installed the rent must not be increase for two years. However, if the property is regulated under a fair rent agreement or subject to an annual rent review, increases may continue but theses increases cannot take into account any measures provided by Warm Front.

### CONTACT US

For further information on the Warm Front scheme including qualifying criteria or to make an application please contact the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on free phone 0800 512 012.



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## FIND OUT MORE

For more information on scheme eligibility criteria and general energy efficiency advice, please call the qualified energy advisors of your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre free on **0800 512 012**.

From the 1st of April 2010 similar presentations may be available to your local community group please contact Mark on **0121 543 2907** if you are interested in making a booking.

## COMING INTO YOUR AREA

From the 1st of April 2010 similar work shops may be available to your local youth groups please contact Mark on **0121 543 2907** if you are interested in making a booking.

## RAISING AWARENESS IN WOLVERHAMPTON

Hestia Managed Services Limited is organising presentations on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council to inform local community groups about the wide range of grants available in Wolverhampton and to provide general energy efficiency advice.

The latest presentation was recently held at an Age Concern coffee morning, which was attended mostly by members of the community who work for voluntary organisations including 'Befriending'. 'Befriending' provides a weekly home visiting service for older people who have recently been discharged from hospital or a resource centre. They arrange visits that are carried out by trained volunteers who offer support to help prevent isolation or loneliness.

The presentation included information about the wide range of grant assistance that is currently available to residents in the Wolverhampton area. The assistance includes the Wolverhampton Affordable Warmth scheme, which offers a number of measures including loft and cavity wall insulation. In addition, the Wolverhampton Low Carbon Grants scheme offers measures including solid wall insulation and solar water heating.

The group at the Age Concern coffee morning were very pleased with the outcome of the presentation and participants advised they were looking forward to passing on information they had gathered during the session. This presentation was one of many carried out in Wolverhampton this year, making residents aware of the help they have access to.

## ECO WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN IN THE AREA

Hestia Managed Services Limited is providing work shops to local youth groups on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council to inform children about the effects of climate change and to encourage energy efficiency in the home.

During September five work shops were undertaken with cub, scout and brownie groups throughout Wolverhampton. During these work shops a number of fun and engaging activities were undertaken to help make the children aware of climate change and how being more energy efficient at home can help reduce their impact on the environment.

All the groups were very pleased with the outcome of the events and many of the adults in attendance also advised that they had benefited from the information contained within the activities.



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## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

**FIND OUT MORE**  
For further information please contact Marches Energy Agency Low Carbon Enterprise Team on 01743 277110 or look at [www.me.a.org.uk](http://www.me.a.org.uk).

Are you a member of a village hall, school, college or a not for profit organisation? If so grants of up to 50% are available for sustainable technologies including solar hot water, solar PV, wind, heat pumps, biomass and micro-hydro. Funded by the BIG lottery, the Community Sustainable Energy Programme is unique in that it will fund up to 75% of a feasibility study and can help define exactly what technologies are technically and financially viable. Armed with a feasibility study, groups have gone on and applied and secured up to 50% of the capital costs.

One example is the new-build multipurpose building for the community of Madeley in Staffordshire, who sought a sustainable solution to providing its energy requirements. Following the feasibility study, the group was successful in their funding bids. The heating requirements for the new build will be provided using a ground source heat pump almost completely (70%) powered by electricity from 130m<sup>2</sup> of solar PV panels on the hall roof (though these will actually contribute towards reducing overall electricity demand).

In addition the estimated large hot water demand will be partially provided by some 30m<sup>2</sup> of solar hot water panels situated on the flat roofs of the building. This capital investment in the building now should minimise running costs for the community for many years reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to less than half of those of the original design.



Please e-mail any news or stories that you would like to see in the next Affordable Warmth Newsletter to: [jessica.elges@hestiaservices.co.uk](mailto:jessica.elges@hestiaservices.co.uk)

To find out more about any of the grants and schemes mentioned in this newsletter you can contact your local **Energy Saving Trust advice centre** free on:

# (0800) 512 012

