

Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2013 – 2016

Aim 1: Co-ordinate delivery, work in partnership and influence policy

	Action	Target/ measure	Lead Organisation	Delivery Partners	Delivery Date	Progress March 2015
1.	To ensure the affordable warmth partnership involves relevant organisations and engages with other partnerships.					
1.1.1	Organise and hold quarterly meetings of the Affordable Warmth Partnership (AWP)	4 meetings annually	SWEA	All members of AWP	April 2013 - and quarterly thereafter	8 meetings held
1.1.2	To increase the number of partners within the AWP and to engage with key organisations.	2 new partners annually	SWEA	All AWP members	March 2014 And reporting annually thereafter	2 new members added- GL Communities & reengagement with District CAB's
1.2	To ensure relevant policies acknowledge issues that relate to affordable warmth					
1.2.1	Prepare and complete progress reports under the HECA act to ensure due regard is given to reducing fuel poverty	Progress report completed, submitted to DECC and published on each council's website.	HECA Lead Officer (Stroud District Council)	All LA private sector housing managers	31 st March 2015	Completed
1.2.2	Review the AWP action plan annually and amend as appropriate	Annual review of the AWP action plan	Chair of the AWP	All AWP members	April 2014 and annually thereafter	No progress has been made in reviewing the action plan due to lack of staff resources, however, this is to be looked at in April 2015 and brought to the next affordable warmth partnership meeting. The amended action plan will be then published alongside the original on the appropriate web page.
1.2.3	Make links to objectives within the Gloucestershire Health and Well being strategy and report	Report on number of energy efficiency measures installed	Chair of the AWP	All LAs including Gloucestershire County &	April 2014 and annually thereafter	The Chief Executive from Stroud District Council is now a representative for the district

	data to the health and wellbeing board.			SWEA	April 2014 and annually thereafter	<p>authorities across Gloucestershire on the Gloucestershire health and wellbeing board.</p> <p>Targets now exist within the Gloucestershire health and wellbeing strategy delivery plan 'Fit for Future' under 'People Live Independently for Longer' for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of energy efficiency measures installed • No. of referrals to Warm and Well. <p>Marketing has taken place towards vulnerable groups and young people (see progress under aim 4) however this has not been formally fed back to the board.</p>
1.2.4	To link with Aim 3 - Level 1 Cold weather alert, within the Cold Weather plan for England of long term planning and winter preparedness	Develop an annual winter marketing campaign with key partners	Chair of the AWP	All AWP members	September 2013 and annually thereafter	2013 Winter Marketing plan was completed and delivered. 2014 Winter Marketing plan was completed. With 25 out of 36 identified actions completed.
1.3	To maximise funding available for affordable warmth across Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire					
1.3.1	Submit funding bids to external organisations to assist in achieving the aims within this strategy and reducing fuel poverty	1 bid submitted per year	Chair of the AWP	All AWP members	When available	1 bid submitted in 2013/14 for DECC Green Deal communities fund, this was unsuccessful. 1 bid submitted in 2014/15 for DECC Community Energy Saving which was unsuccessful. .
1.3.2	Establish an ECO partnership	ECO partnership agreed	SWEA	All LAs	End of April 2013	The Warm and Well partnership established a mechanism to

						access ECO funding via a GD installer and has held discussions with various ECO funders (Energy companies)
1.3.3	Establish Green Deal partnership	Green Deal partnership agreed	SWEA	All LAs	End of April 2013	Partnership in place with ability to send householders on to active GD provider.
1.3.4	Submit reports to members/executive within District, County and Unitary authorities to secure budgets towards affordable warmth delivery projects.	Budgets agreed	All LAs Gloucestershire County (Di Billingham)	All AWP members	December 2013 and annually thereafter if required	<p>Gloucestershire County Council, South Gloucestershire Council and all local authorities within Gloucestershire have secured budgets to continue supporting the Warm and Well scheme until March 2016.</p> <p>Stroud District council secured under spend to continue until March 2016 to support additional grants for loft and cavity wall insulation under Warm and Well for vulnerable groups and funding towards domestic green deal assessments.</p> <p>Stroud District Council gained permission to continue the Target 2050 loan scheme for a further year (March 2016)</p> <p>S. Gloucestershire council have launch a new landlord grant scheme (2014) and an area based scheme (Hanham) offering free loft & CW insulation.</p>

Aim 2: Improve energy efficiency across all housing tenures

	Action	Target/ measure	Lead Organisation	Delivery Partners	Delivery Date	
2.1	To work together to collect and make use of data on the energy efficiency of homes					
2.1.1	Establish a start and finish group to develop recommendations on consistent data collection and analysis as a consortium of authorities, including social housing.	Report complete on types of data and collection methods for Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire and resources required	David Steels Private Sector Housing Manager Tewkesbury Borough Council	Private Sector Housing managers group South Gloucestershire SWEA SHARE forum members	March 2014	No progress made
2.2	To continue to reduce barriers to installation of retrofit energy efficient measures					
2.2.1	Increase the number and skill range of the Link to Energy network	10 new installers a year across Gloucestershire & S. Gloucestershire	SWEA	All AWP members	March 2014 And annually thereafter	Over 10 new members joined across 2014 and 2015 at least 6 of whom offer Green Deal accredited solid wall insulation as required to ensure Link to Energy offers a range of improvement services. Two installer network meetings were held and a 'win the contract' course delivered to 12 members companies.
2.2.2	To work in partnership with planning departments to agree guiding principles when householders wish to install retrofit measures in conservation areas and listed buildings	Guidelines produced	Stroud DC energy officer	All LA's SWEA	March 2015	No progress made
2.3	To improve energy efficiency in existing private housing					
2.3.1	Install Energy Efficient measures through direct referrals and signposting to	To report on the number of homes improved and measures installed via ECO, Green Deal	SWEA	All district LAs and S. Gloucestershire authority.		1023 measures installed up to the end of December 2014.

	Green Deal, ECO and local authority schemes.	and LA based schemes.		ECO partner Green Deal partner Installers		
2.3.2	Reduce the complexities of heating controls by assessing guidance in circulation and publicising guides targeted at vulnerable client groups	Literature review of existing guidance and publish best practice guides	SWEA	All AWP members	March 2014	Severn Wye is currently creating advice materials for various different topics, including one planned for heating controls.
2.3.4	To encourage behavioural change by promoting the usage of energy monitors	Increase in number of monitors borrowed from libraries	Stroud DC energy officer	All LA's Glos County Council	March 2014 And annually thereafter	Energy monitors are in place in Libraries across Gloucestershire, however no progress has been made to promote this due to staff time limitations.
2.3.5	Develop a marketing campaign and promotional materials to work directly with 'Link to Energy' installers to promote energy efficiency improvements during 'trigger points' of planned improvement work and via word of mouth	No. Of referrals from 'Link to Energy' network	SWEA	All LA's	December 2013	Created a "Home Improvement Pack" provided to installers on the link to energy network to show to householders. A mechanism to record referrals from this activity has not been possible.
2.4	To improve energy efficiency specifically within private rented housing					
2.4.1	To work with the Gloucestershire Landlords Forum and West of England Landlord EXPO to promote energy efficiency to landlords.	No of landlords advised with information on current energy efficient schemes during annual forums.	Stroud district council & S. Glos Council	All LA's SWEA	April 2013 -West of England November 2013 - Gloucestershire And annually thereafter	Gloucestershire landlord forum has not been held due to staff time limitations. . West of England EXPO was attended by members from South Gloucestershire Council during 2014 and 2015 advising landlords on energy efficiency, finance schemes and EPCs. 822 Landlords attended in 2014/15 – largest attendance since it's launch.

						Gloucester City meets with Gloucester landlords association on a quarterly basis, these acts as an ad-hoc forum for answering Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth enquiries.
2.4.2	To encourage Landlords to bring properties up to a minimum EPC rating of E by introducing a minimum standard into the Gloucestershire 'Fit to Rent' scheme and South Gloucestershire's landlord accreditation scheme	Criteria changed on accreditation schemes to accept properties with a minimum energy efficiency rating of E	Chair of the private sector housing managers group & South Glos Council	All LA's	March 2014	No progress made; to be discussed and put forward during financial year 2015/16.
2.4.3	To implement a proactive approach to reducing excess cold in housing by delivering briefing events to educate landlords and partners of enforcement powers of local authorities	20 Briefing sessions delivered	Chair of the Gloucestershire private sector housing managers group South Glos Council	All LAs		<p>2 Briefing sessions were held in Stroud for Stroud District partners.</p> <p>South Glos presented to the South Gloucestershire Housing Group identifying their in-house affordable warmth strategies and ways the council can work in partnership to reduce category 1 hazards especially in excess cold and damp and mould.</p> <p>Warm Up South Glos was launched in Nov 2014 - landlord project offering grants for landlords with rented properties with low energy efficiency ratings.</p> <p>Single/joint training session was held, organised and hosted by Stroud District Council aimed at Environmental Health officers</p>

						(EHOs) to promote recommending and installing more energy efficiency measures when assessing homes for excess cold. EHOs from all district authorities within Gloucestershire attended.
2.5	To work with Registered Social Landlords					
2.5.1.	Explore opportunities for joint retrofit and advice projects between private sector housing and social housing, maximising area based solutions, ECO and procurement.	Feasibility investigation complete 3 area based scheme completed	SWEA	Private sector housing managers group and SHARE forum	March 2015 March 2016	No progress due to funding landscape. The Chair of the Gloucestershire affordable warmth partnership has attended Gloucestershire Affordable Landlord forum (GALF)
2.5.2	Encourage data sharing of implemented measures and EPC data to encapsulate number of energy efficiency measures installed and energy ratings across all housing tenures.	Data collected from social housing providers	SWEA	All local authorities SHARE forum	March 2015 And annually thereafter	Stroud District Council have purchased EPC data for all housing across the district with and EPC to encapsulate across the district as a whole.
2.5.3	Complete a literature review and produce best practice guidance in engaging tenants with energy issues and deep retrofit work.	Best practice guidance complete and distributed	SWEA	All AW partners and SHARE forum	March 2014	No progress made
2.5.4	To arrange and hold SHARE forums	4 SHARE forums per annum	SWEA	SHARE forum members	June 2014 and quarterly thereafter	No progress made
2.6	To work with new build developments					
2.6.1	Devise a scheme to potentially access allowable solutions funding from new build developments	Potential scheme developed	Gloucestershire County Council	All LAs SWEA	December 2013	No progress made. Primary legislation has not yet gone through parliament.

Aim 3: Promote and provide advice and information

	Action	Target/Measure	Lead Officer	Delivery Partners	Delivery Date	Progress
3.1	To maintain a co-ordinated approach to energy advice provision relevant to local needs					
3.1.1	To ensure continued delivery of a single, local point of contact and free phone number for the public and referring partner organisations	Funding secured for administration of free phone number and staffing costs	SWEA	All AWP members	December 2013 and annually each year	Gloucestershire County Council, South Gloucestershire Council and all local authorities secured budgets to continue supporting the Warm and Well scheme until March 2016, which includes the staffing of a single free phone advice line.
3.1.2	Promoting the use of a single point of contact free phone number and website by marketing activities.	3000 households advised per year	SWEA	All LAs SWEA	March 2014 And annually thereafter delivered up to Dec 2014	3279 advice calls 2013/14 3316 advice calls 2014/15 (as of end Dec 2014)
3.2	To integrate referral mechanisms and energy advice services with key partners					
3.2.1	Undertake briefing/training sessions for frontline staff who work with vulnerable people	2 sessions per annum	SWEA	All LA's	March 2014 and annually thereafter	22 sessions for front line workers have been held
3.2.2	Develop referral mechanisms between new key partnership organisations who work with vulnerable people.	No. of agency referral networks set up 50 referrals per year	SWEA	All AWP members	March 2014 And annually thereafter	1 new referral partner has been set up with the British Red Cross. Over 50 referrals received per year.
3.3	To raise awareness of affordable warmth achievements locally, regionally and nationally					
3.3.1	Identify opportunities to promote national campaigns locally e.g. Warm Homes Week	1 campaigns per annum promoted locally	Chair of AWP	Members of AWP	March 2014 And annually	Cold homes week, Climate week, Fuel Poverty Awareness week, Warm Homes campaign and the Nation's Biggest Housewarming all promoted throughout

						2014/2015 in all 7 local authority partner areas.
3.3.2	To utilise social media sites to publicise advice and provision and remain in communication with partners	12 posts a year	SWEA	All AWP members	March 2014 And annually thereafter	Complete 100+ posts per year
3.3.3	To promote local projects and information and outputs via local, regional and national networks	3 articles/ presentations per year	Stroud District Council Energy Officer	All AWP members	March 2014 And annually	<p>Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire projects/work promoted at the South West Carbon Action Network Executive meetings.</p> <p>The Countdown to Low Carbon Homes research report and toolkit has been completed and has been disseminated to local partners and on social media.</p> <p>Forest of Dean Council have produced a leaflet specifically for Councillors and staff regarding help and advice available to residents for keeping heating costs down. This leaflet was preceded by a training session from warm and well.</p> <p>Affordable Warmth article in South Glos news letter and parish council news letters.</p>
3.4	To provide advice that is in an understandable format					
3.4.1	Review literature to make sure it is all in plain English	All literature has been reviewed	SWEA	All AWP members	September 2014	No progress made

Aim 4: Identify and help people at risk of fuel poverty

	Action	Target/ Measure	Lead Officer	Delivery Partners	Delivery Date	Progress
4.1	To target the homes which present the greatest risk of fuel poverty					
4.1.1	Purchase and use EPC data to target and improve the SAP rating of F & G rated homes	No of homes below SAP rating of 35 improved from 2013 baseline	Stroud DC Private sector housing manager	All LAs SWEA	March 2014 and annually thereafter	Stroud District council has purchased EPC for the entire district. S. Gloucestershire council EPC data has also been purchased and in process of being used to target relevant areas. Gloucester city has made, no progress to date but is currently researching potential.
4.1.2	Explore the feasibility of setting up community bulk purchasing groups for the purchase of oil, LPG or renewable heating systems in off gas areas.	Feasibility investigation complete	Stroud District Council energy officer	All AWP members	March 2015	No progress made
4.1.3	Access the Carbon Saving Communities aspect of ECO in Gloucester, Cheltenham and S. Glos	ECO funding work delivered within 1 qualifying LSOA in each council that hosts a qualifying area.	SWEA	S. Gloucestershire, Cheltenham and Gloucester Councils	March 2016	CSCO mail outs to all CSCO areas within Cheltenham, Gloucester, Forest of Dean, Stroud and South Gloucestershire councils.
4.2	To specifically target households and vulnerable people who are at risk of fuel poverty and the cold					
4.2.1	To target market events and information stands toward the over 60s	Attend/organise 5-10 events per year	SWEA	All AWP members	March 2014 And annually thereafter	Specific mail out delivered for loft and CW to areas in Stroud District with high proportion of over 60s. Gloucester City Council sent a mail shot to all benefit recipients within the city with support from the warm and well team. S. Gloucestershire council staff

						<p>have attended 4 events for the over 50's.</p> <p>At least 5 events attended in each of the 7 partner local authority areas, Severn Wye has attended more than 70 events overall in 14/15.</p>
4.2.2	<p>To target market households and families with young children e.g.-single parent families - pre/post natal women - Families with early years children</p>	Attend/organise 5-10 events per year	SWEA	All AWP members	<p>March 2014 And annually thereafter</p>	<p>At least 5 events attended in each of the 7 partner local authority areas, focusing on families with young children as well as with disabilities.</p> <p>S. Gloucestershire staff have attended 6 school workshops and delivered 3 presentations to Sure Start centres.</p> <p>Specific mail out delivered for loft and CW to areas in Stroud District with high proportion of families living with children.</p> <p>Gloucester City Council sent a mail shot to all benefit recipients within the city with support from the warm and well team.</p>
4.2.3	<p>To target market households who have a disability, learning difficulties or mental health problems</p>	Attend/organise 5-10 events per year	SWEA	All AWP members	<p>March 2014 And annually thereafter</p>	<p>Warm & Well partnership activity involves working with third sector organisations and groups including Alzheimer's society, Active and Able, P3 and many more. More than 70 events and talks attended.</p> <p>S. Gloucestershire staff had an</p>

						advice stand at a Memory Cafe and attended 2 events aimed for children with asthma.
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