

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL AFFORDABLE WARMTH ACTION PLAN



EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL AFFORDABLE WARMTH ACTION PLAN

Foreword	01
Definitions	02
The Health Impacts of Living in Cold, Damp Homes	03
Background to Fuel Poverty	04
Case Studies	05
Tackling Fuel Poverty - A Regional Perspective	06
Developing an Affordable Warmth Action Plan for the East Midlands	10
Key Aims	13
Glossary	23



FOREWORD

They say an Englishman's home is his castle; but castles were cold, damp and draughty. At the beginning of the 21st Century most of us can count ourselves fortunate to live in relative comfort and safety, but even now there are some members of our society who are not so lucky. Within the East Midlands, thousands of households live in cold and damp houses which are poorly insulated, have inefficient or expensive heating systems, face insufficient income to heat their home adequately and, as a consequence, experience greater levels of ill health than the rest of the population within the region. These people are in fuel poverty.

The effects of living in such properties are wide ranging. Of greatest significance is the incidence of cold-related illness, for example cardio-vascular disease, and accidents and falls within the home, all of which place huge demands on the NHS. However the impacts of living in cold and energy inefficient homes are wider ranging, including social, economic and environmental consequences. Children living in such conditions suffer greater levels of respiratory illness, are more likely to spend time away from school due to sickness, and do not have a warm home environment in which to study. Alongside a range of other factors this ultimately impacts upon educational attainment levels for young people. At the other end of the age spectrum, older people are less likely to be socially active and enjoy an active and happy retirement. In terms of the economic impact, an increased proportion of income directed to domestic heating results in less disposable income. Also, inefficient energy systems mean increased pollution impacting upon the environment.

Stronger regional action around affordable warmth will tackle such issues and is widely recognised as a key factor in reducing health inequalities. A number of local authorities within the region have developed excellent local strategies, however, the key challenge is to both identify and encourage the delivery of action that regional agencies can take to ensure affordable warmth becomes a reality for every household within the region.

The Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan provides a comprehensive, planned approach to the alleviation of fuel poverty and the delivery of affordable warmth at a regional level. Developed under the auspices of 'Investment for Health', the regional strategy for health improvement, the Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan identifies the main challenges in taking forward ideas for action and looks at particular ways in which regional organisations can work together to tackle fuel poverty.

I am really pleased that the East Midlands is the first region to develop a Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan, and together, working across the region, we can make affordable warmth a reality for all.

Professor Lindsey Davies

East Midlands Regional Director of Public Health



DEFINITIONS

FUEL POVERTY

A fuel-poor household is one that cannot afford to keep adequately warm at a reasonable cost. The most widely accepted definition of a fuel-poor household is one that needs to spend more than 10% of its income on all fuel use in order to heat the home to an adequate standard of warmth. This is generally defined as 21°C in the living room and 18°C in other occupied rooms - the temperatures recommended by the World Health Organisation.

AFFORDABLE WARMTH

The solution to fuel poverty is affordable warmth - the ability to achieve a temperature in the home that is adequate for health and comfort, within 10% of household income.

THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF LIVING IN COLD DAMP HOMES

“The Independent Inquiry into Inequalities in Health”, commissioned by the Department of Health, published its findings in 1998. The Inquiry concluded that health inequalities were closely linked to material deprivation and specifically recommended adoption of “policies to improve insulation and heating systems in new and existing buildings to reduce the prevalence of fuel poverty”.

The connection between cold, damp housing and rates of morbidity and mortality are well documented. The most emotive and highly publicised representation of fuel poverty is that of the pensioner suffering hypothermia. Cases of hypothermia are clearly very serious indeed, however, in stark clinical terms, actual cases of hypothermia deaths are comparatively rare (250 - 350 per year). Of greater significance is the incidence of cold-related illness. Cold homes have been shown to exacerbate existing illnesses such as asthma and to reduce resistance to respiratory illnesses like influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis. The risk of heart attack or stroke is also increased by cold conditions in the home. Within the UK there are an extra 40,000 excess winter deaths (December - March) (United Kingdom Public Health Association (UKHPA), April 2005) and housing conditions and low internal temperature are a considerable factor accounting for many of these deaths. The fact that countries with much more severe winters than those of the UK, for example Sweden, Germany and Canada, experience a comparatively low variation of mortality across the seasons, suggests that poor housing standards and low incomes are the crucial factors. It has been suggested that for every 1°C that the winter temperature drops below the average there will be an associated increase of 8,000 excess winter deaths. The tragedy is that these deaths are largely preventable if people were able to keep warm whilst indoors.

In addition, the fuel poor suffer from loss of opportunity by having to use a larger proportion of their income to keep warm than other households. This results in a decline in well-being and overall quality of life. It is estimated that within the UK over 4 million households face a financial struggle to keep their homes warm and, for some people, the required level of expenditure to achieve a warm and healthy living environment makes this simply unfeasible.

In April 2005, the UKPHA launched the Health Housing and Fuel Poverty Forum (HHFPF). The aim of the forum is to exchange information and share experience, to make a step-change in professional and public opinion and, ultimately, influence behaviour. By bringing people together the HHFPF wants to make positive outcomes - such as improving access to financial aid for all people who need help heating their homes - a reality.

www.warmerhouses.org.uk

BACKGROUND TO FUEL POVERTY

Although the preconditions for fuel poverty - poor housing and heating standards, under-occupancy, low household income and unaffordable energy prices - have always existed for the most disadvantaged households, it was not until the 1970s that fuel poverty was identified as a serious social problem.

Some additional factors must be considered as contributing to, or exacerbating fuel poverty. Not all households have access to a mains gas supply and will, therefore, be excluded from what is generally the most economical and efficient method of space and water heating. Many households contain one or more individuals who, because of age or disability, require higher temperatures for health, well-being and comfort; a disadvantage that is compounded by the need to spend longer periods in the home than more active occupants. Finally, even the matter of how fuel is paid for can be an issue, with significant differentials in energy charges between direct debit (lowest charges) and prepayment meter use (highest charges).

Thus, fuel poverty is an issue affected by:

- Household income
- The characteristics of households (elderly, single parent etc)
- Housing standards (insulation, heating and ventilation)
- Occupancy issues (both occupancy levels and occupancy patterns)
- Energy price fluctuations and payment methods

CASE STUDIES

LOCAL AUTHORITY CASE STUDY

Newark and Sherwood can demonstrate a longstanding commitment to tackling fuel poverty, now embedded in the community strategy and the work of the Local Strategic Partnership. Newark and Sherwood was awarded Beacon Council status for its work in addressing fuel poverty.

Newark and Sherwood's approach differs from that of the other Beacon councils in that it has adopted a property-based approach - aiming to improve the energy efficiency of all dwellings in the district over time, but dealing with the worst first, on the basis that properties could be occupied by a fuel-poor household at any point.

The council made a corporate commitment to tackling fuel poverty as early as 1986 when it set an affordable warmth target for its own stock. It has adopted an analysis of the problem based on a projected percentage of income spent on energy. Historically, funding rather than strategy driven, the council has now gained additional benefits through working in strategic partnerships with other agencies such as Age Concern, Care and Repair and other partners in health and social services.

A systematic approach to dealing with public sector dwellings has been developed that prioritises vulnerable householders. Training has been an important part of the approach and energy-awareness training has been provided to tenants, voluntary sector workers, health workers, Citizens Advice Bureaux and council staff.

Newark and Sherwood's Beacon Council Scheme application form can be viewed at:

www.newarksherwooddc.gov.uk/downloads/fuelpoverty/bsfpappform.pdf

HEALTH CASE STUDY

Greater Nottingham Healthy Housing Service (GNHHS) has been operating successfully since 2000, linking the NHS and other agencies to refer vulnerable households for energy efficiency grants and advice, home improvement services and repairs.

GNHHS aims to place fuel poverty on the working agenda of frontline staff, in particular NHS personnel, and establish a mainstream referral service to enable those most in need to achieve affordable warmth and a better quality of life. The service targets the most deprived private sector households with a specific emphasis on pregnant mothers, families with children under 16, disabled persons and people over 60.

The service has received funding from a range of statutory partners including the NHS; Nottingham City, Broxtowe and Hucknall, Gedling and Rushcliffe PCTs have committed resources to ensure the delivery of the service.

TACKLING FUEL POVERTY - A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The case for eradicating fuel poverty and enabling householders to have access to affordable warmth has been recognised by Government as a national priority.

The Government estimated that in 2003 there were 1.2 million households in fuel poverty in England of whom 1 million were vulnerable households: that is, households containing children, those that are elderly, chronically sick, or living with a disability¹. Fuel poverty affected 112,000 households in the East Midlands (6.3% of all households in the region). Recent research published by the National Right to Fuel Campaign and National Energy Action² indicates that subsequent rises in domestic gas and electricity prices have increased the incidence of fuel poverty by some 80%.

It was in recognition of the scale of this problem in the UK that the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 required the Government to publish a strategy setting objectives and targets for the eradication of fuel poverty within fifteen years. The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, published in 2001, details the Government's overall objective of eradicating fuel poverty in the UK by 2016. The strategy sets out how a combination of measures to improve the energy efficiency of housing, social obligations placed upon fuel suppliers and policies aimed at raising incomes through increases in welfare benefits and tax credits is expected to contribute to the eradication of fuel poverty in the UK.

It is clear that achievement of this objective requires co-ordination of activity across a range of different policy areas including housing, health and well-being, economic regeneration, environment and climate change. Thus, co-ordination between local and regional organisations from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors is crucial if the Government's objective is to be achieved.

The movement towards a much stronger role for regions in taking responsibility for determining and delivering policy objectives in the UK has presented a number of challenges as well as opportunities to develop policies and practice on a wider basis than has been implemented so far. Indeed the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy specifically states that:

'It is clear that the knowledge, experience, and resources of both local authorities and PCTs will need to be integrated more systematically into the wider effort to combat fuel poverty. The Government Offices for the Regions, too, need to be engaged because of their wide-ranging ability to bring together different players and to encourage and facilitate developments on a regional basis. DEFRA and DTI Fuel Poverty Teams have begun a programme of visits to the GOs to help develop thinking about fuel poverty as an issue. Those visits will be backed up by workshops aimed at securing involvement of key regional players'.

1. Detailed Breakdowns of Fuel Poverty in England in 2003, DTI and Defra, July 2005

2. [http://www.nea.org.uk/downloads/publications/The_Fall_and_Rise_of_Fuel_Prices_and_Fuel_Poverty_\(summary\).pdf](http://www.nea.org.uk/downloads/publications/The_Fall_and_Rise_of_Fuel_Prices_and_Fuel_Poverty_(summary).pdf)

In addition the Government's 1st Annual Progress report for the strategy stated:

*'There is also a clear role for ... Regional Government in achieving the UK's fuel poverty targets. Government Offices for the Regions can ... play an important part, particularly now they are responsible for certain elements of the health sector, and are developing "Communities" action plans.'*³

Affordable warmth issues need to be reflected in wider regional strategies and the levers for delivering a Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan are best supported by existing regional strategies:

- The Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) is the overarching framework for all strategies in the East Midlands. Its aim is to ensure all strategies take into consideration other strategies and allow the region to develop in a sustainable manner. To achieve this, it is split into four themes: Economic, Environment, Social and Spatial. Fuel poverty is not in itself listed as one of the five agreed priorities in the IRS but there is a clear link to two of the priorities: reducing inequalities and creating sustainable and healthy communities. These priorities are consistent with the Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan.
- The Regional Spatial Strategy includes renewable energy targets (10% renewables by 2010, 20% by 2020).
- The Regional Housing Strategy recommends the development and implementation of effective affordable warmth strategies and includes a commitment to prioritise energy efficiency.
- The Regional Economic Strategy 'Destination 2010' is the key regional strategy designed to address economic issues. Emda has led the development of the strategy with many partners taking a role in delivery. Emda will continue to contribute to the overall aims of the affordable warmth action plan through its strategic role in relation to both the Regional Housing Strategy and the Regional Energy Strategy. In its economic development role the agency will continue to play a crucial role through support for innovation and improved technologies.
- Regional Energy Strategy. The 2003 Energy White Paper⁴ (EWP) will be implemented regionally and has required regional partnership working between the RDA, Assemblies and Government Offices. Delivering fundamental changes in the way we generate and use energy requires action at regional level, between housing, planning and regeneration, as well as RDA support for innovation & skills. As part of the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS), the Regional Energy Group aims to reduce energy use, improve energy efficiency and achieve a significant take-up of renewable energy at local and regional level. It should be noted that one of the four key goals listed in the Energy White Paper is 'to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.'

3. The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 1st ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2003, http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/fuelpov/pdf/fuelpov_1stannrpt.pdf

4. Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy, DTI, 2003.

- The Regional Environment Strategy is also part of the IRS and has as its key aim to integrate considerations of the environment in all decision making as part of the move towards a sustainable region. The Assembly's Environment Group takes this work forward. Implementation of the Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan will have an impact on environmental issues and support the delivery of the Environmental Strategy.
- Investment for Health, the East Midlands Public Health Strategy, set out the close relationship between poor housing, poverty and poor health. Research supports the fact that improvements to housing and its surrounding environment can help to reduce health inequalities, particularly for vulnerable groups and will impact upon the delivery of a number of Investment for Health objectives e.g. cardio-vascular disease, accidents and mental health.

Turning strategy into action is the challenge and this can only happen as part of wider regional policy discussion. Embedding policies to promote energy efficiency into the Regional Housing Strategy is one way of implementing policies that can deliver affordable warmth. But co-ordinated delivery of affordable warmth to vulnerable households is best supported if all relevant regional strategies integrate objectives to tackle fuel poverty within their own broader objectives.

The main challenge for the development of the Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan was to establish how regional organisations could identify the contribution they could make to tackling fuel poverty and to the delivery of affordable warmth. At regional level there are a number of bodies whose activities can make a contribution to promoting affordable warmth. Alongside RPHG (Regional Public Health Group), GOEM, Emda and EMRA, other regional partners include the recently established regional NICE team (National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence), EMPHO (East Midlands Public Health Observatory), EMRLGA, (East Midlands Regional Local Government Association), EMUA (East Midlands University Association), Engage and Voice, as well as sub-regional organisations including Trent & LNR Strategic Health Authorities.

These regional and sub-regional bodies are in an ideal position to promote and develop affordable warmth through raising awareness of fuel poverty and affordable warmth issues across the region. This can be done by developing partnerships for affordable warmth; providing the link between national policy and local action; influencing the development of policy and practice at a regional level; as well as influencing local authorities, PCTs and voluntary sector organisations. Regional organisations are also able to assist in the provision of funding and other resources, promoting cross-sector participation, co-operation and wider ownership of the strategy.

The UK's Climate Change Programme (CCP), published in 2000, sets out how the UK will meet its target under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The CCP Review has looked specifically at local and regional delivery and noted that a range of stakeholders at regional level, including Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), regional assemblies and others have an equally important role to play.

The development of a Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan will also have a number of economic benefits. For instance, there are many local authorities, housing associations and voluntary organisations that are involved in training those without work to become installers of energy efficiency improvement measures. It is also important to note that reducing household expenditure on fuel (not just affordable warmth) leaves a greater proportion of overall income to be spent elsewhere. Since many of the most vulnerable people live in areas of the greatest deprivation, even a small increase in spending power can make a real difference to the local economy.

Housing providers are expected to set out how the Decent Homes Standard (DHS) will be achieved through investment strategies within their business plans. These must be set in the context of an appreciation of the local housing markets and the objectives laid out in the Local Strategic Partnership's 'Community Strategy'. There is a wide range of regional and local organisations, statutory and voluntary, that can help to ensure that at least 65% of vulnerable private sector households are living in decent housing by 2006-2007 - an interim target set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. One of the most important tasks for the Regional Housing Board (RHB) is meeting the targets established for the achievement of the 'Decent Homes Standard' in the social sector. However, the Decent Homes Standard will not necessarily provide affordable warmth and therefore a Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan will explore ways of encouraging housing providers to go beyond these standards to eradicate fuel poverty.

DEVELOPING AN AFFORDABLE WARMTH ACTION PLAN FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

The important role of local authorities in identifying and implementing policies to eradicate fuel poverty and achieve other strategic objectives at a local level has been widely recognised. To this end, in recent years many local authorities have formed partnerships with other key stakeholders to develop affordable warmth strategies that aim to meet corporate and community objectives in a planned and systematic way.

In addition to this valuable local work, there is a clear need for a strategic approach to tackling fuel poverty to be adopted. Although there is a national UK fuel poverty strategy, to date there hasn't been a co-ordinated regional response to the problem. The East Midlands is the first English region to set itself the challenge of addressing fuel poverty across the region.

Health organisations within the region have a key role in the eradication of fuel poverty. Action to eradicate fuel poverty and achieve affordable warmth for vulnerable households will help achieve some NHS key objectives including the National Service Framework for Older People, The NHS Plan and the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease.

An inter-departmental Government review of fuel poverty published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in 1999 ('Fuel Poverty: the New Home Energy Efficiency Scheme - a programme for warmer, healthier homes') made a clear link between cold homes and poor health. Focusing on improved energy efficiency within the private sector, the Government has placed particular emphasis on establishing referral networks with primary health workers, who are felt to be in an ideal position to refer vulnerable households for improvements through the Government-funded Warm Front programme and other sources of assistance.

Throughout 2004 the Regional Public Health Group, in partnership with NEA, the national fuel poverty charity, has led the development of an affordable warmth action plan for the East Midlands. A steering group was formed to drive the strategy development process forward, the members of which were drawn from a wide variety of regional organisations in recognition of the cross-cutting nature of fuel poverty and the cross-sector approach needed to tackle the problem.

The steering group consisted of representatives from:

Regional Public Health Group
 Government Office for the East Midlands
 Regional Health Development Agency
 East Midlands Development Agency
 East Midlands Regional Assembly
 East Midlands Regional Local Government Association
 East Midlands Public Health Observatory
 Trent Strategic Health Authority
 Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland Strategic Health Authority
 PCT representative
 Energy Saving Trust

The steering group was in an ideal position to promote and develop affordable warmth through:

- Awareness raising across the region
- Influencing and promoting the development of policy and practice on a local level with, for example, local authorities, PCTs and voluntary sector organisations
- Provision of funding and other resources
- Developing partnerships for affordable warmth
- Issuing guidance to local bodies through, for example, the regional planning framework

In order to establish the broad aims and objectives for the Affordable Warmth Action Plan, two well-attended workshops were convened during 2004. Participants were invited from a wide range of regional and sub-regional organisations. Through workshop sessions facilitated by NEA, participants were able to identify, and later refine, the objectives, which were of primary importance in the East Midlands. A consultation period then allowed input from all interested parties and the objectives and tasks outlined in the action plan were refined further into a comprehensive and cohesive document.

The following action plan outlines the six key aims of the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Action Plan and identifies objectives and tasks required to deliver all of these aims. It will be the role of the Affordable Warmth Steering Group to complete the action plan by prioritising activities, establishing timescales, identifying the necessary resources and monitoring and evaluating each objective; whilst it will be the responsibility of individual regional organisations to work with their local constituent bodies and organisations to ensure the delivery of affordable warmth. Current resources available to the Affordable Warmth Steering Group for the implementation of the Action Plan include staffing resource from NEA (funded by Defra) and further funding from the Department for Trade and Industry and the Energy Saving Trust. In implementing the Action Plan, the East Midlands Regional Affordable Warmth Steering Group will work closely with regional partners to ensure that activities are co-ordinated and linked, where appropriate. For example, activities will be linked with EMRA's work to deliver the 'energy in homes' policy of the Regional Energy Strategy Part 2 - the Framework for Action.

THE SIX KEY AIMS ARE:

1: Ensure that Affordable Warmth work is integrated into the operations of relevant regional, sub-regional and statutory organisations.

2: Ensure that Affordable Warmth is integrated into other regional, sub-regional and local strategies and action plans as these are developed or reviewed.

3: Ensure the effective co-ordination and implementation of the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Action Plan.

4: Ensure that the delivery of Affordable Warmth includes work to maximise the income of vulnerable householders and to help regenerate local economies

5: Support and influence relevant regional and local housing organisations in their work to deliver affordably warm homes.

6: Encourage and support the use of new and renewable technologies for individual households and communities; particularly where these can provide solutions to the particular problems of rural fuel poverty and hard to heat homes.

Key Aim 1: Ensure that Affordable Warmth work is integrated into the operations of relevant regional, sub-regional and statutory organisations

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
1.1 Ensure that Affordable Warmth is addressed by Primary Care Trusts as part of their work to improve the general health of the population.	1.1.1 Incorporate a question relating to Affordable Warmth into the Primary Care Trust performance management checklist (e.g. disease management targets).	Strategic Health Authorities
	1.1.2 Incorporate Affordable Warmth into the framework for public health reviews.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
	1.1.3 Provide training and awareness-raising sessions on fuel poverty to Strategic Health Authority performance managers.	East Midlands Regional Public Health Group
	1.1.4 Strategic Health Authorities to assess the extent and distribution of winter excess mortality across the region and support the delivery of services to provide Affordable Warmth at a local level.	EMPHO Strategic Health Authorities
	1.1.5 Strategic Health Authorities to work with Primary Care Trusts to encourage GPs and other frontline staff to identify and refer vulnerable patients to organisations providing energy grants and services and/or welfare advice.	Strategic Health Authorities Primary Care Trusts
	1.1.6 Provide training sessions and briefing notes for Primary Care Teams, social workers and other frontline health and social care staff. Work with Workforce Development Confederation to develop appropriate training packages and resources.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Workforce Development Confederation
	1.1.7 Encourage social workers and other social care providers to refer vulnerable patients to organisations providing energy grants and services and/or welfare advice.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
	1.1.8 Encourage Primary Care Trusts to work closely with local authorities and other local agencies to tackle fuel poverty , particularly among 'hard to reach' householders.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Strategic Health Authorities
	1.1.9 Trent Strategic Health Authority to work with NEA to develop model questions for inclusion in the Single Assessment Process questionnaire.	Trent Strategic Health Authority NEA
	1.1.10 Ensure that Single Assessment Process questionnaires trigger referrals to all appropriate Affordable Warmth services (e.g. Warm Front).	Strategic Health Authorities

KEY AIMS

Organisations and terms emboldened are defined in the Glossary

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
	1.1.11 Develop training modules to facilitate the effective implementation of Single Assessment Process tools by Primary Care Trusts.	Energy Efficiency Advice Centres NEA
1.2 GOEM Housing Policy team to consider the inclusion of affordable warmth activity in team plans to become part of the performance management and assessment monitoring of local authorities.	1.2.1 Establish links between the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group and teams within GOEM with responsibility for issues relating to fuel poverty (e.g. New Deal for Communities, Sustainable Communities, Housing, Rural Affairs, and the patch teams etc).	GOEM East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group NEA Regional Co-ordinator
1.3 Disseminate good practice in Affordable Warmth delivery throughout the East Midlands.	1.3.1 All regional partner organisations to raise awareness of the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Action Plan as appropriate. 1.3.2 Share learning from local practice across the region and incorporate it into regional events. 1.3.3 Use local learning to inform regional guidance through developing an annual audit of local policy.	All regional partner organisations East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Energy Efficiency Advice Centres East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
1.4 Promote Affordable Warmth activity and strategies within Local Strategic Partnerships.	1.4.1 Encourage Local Strategic Partnerships and Community Partnerships to engage in Affordable Warmth work in the region. 1.4.2 Collate information on current Affordable Warmth work being carried out by Local Strategic Partnerships in the region. 1.4.3 Encourage Local Strategic Partnerships to use the EMPHO evidence base.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group

Organisations and terms emboldened are defined in the Glossary

KEY AIM 2: Ensure that Affordable Warmth is integrated into other regional, sub-regional and local strategies and action plans as these are developed or reviewed.

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
<p>2.1 Encourage each regional organisation to identify and nominate a champion to raise awareness of fuel poverty issues and to join the Affordable Warmth Steering Group.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Obtain high level commitment to the identification of appropriate champions within regional organisations.</p> <p>2.1.2 Support regional energy champions to integrate the Affordable Warmth Action Plan into other regional and sub-regional strategies.</p>	<p>NEA Regional Co-ordinator East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p> <p>NEA Regional Co-ordinator East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p>
<p>2.2 Ensure that all regional, sub-regional and local plans and policies are informed by consideration of Affordable Warmth.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Encourage all local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships to include Affordable Warmth objectives in their community plans/strategies.</p> <p>2.2.2 Encourage all regional & sub-regional organisations to use the East Midlands Integrated Toolkit (EMIT) to appraise all their policies, plans and strategies.</p> <p>2.2.3 Ensure that the Affordable Warmth Steering Group responds to all appropriate consultation documents to ensure that Affordable Warmth is included.</p> <p>2.2.4 Strategic Health Authorities to audit the Local Delivery Plans within their area and produce a report to the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group identifying which Primary Care Trusts have included activity to promote Affordable Warmth.</p>	<p>East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Local Government Association LSPs</p> <p>EMIT Steering Group</p> <p>East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p> <p>Strategic Health Authorities</p>
<p>2.3 Ensure that Affordable Warmth has a voice at regional level.</p>	<p>2.3.1 NEA Regional Co-ordinator to represent Affordable Warmth issues at all relevant regional forums and organisations.</p>	<p>NEA Regional Co-ordinator East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p>

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
<p>2.4 Ensure that all regional organisations understand that investing in the delivery of Affordable Warmth can contribute significantly to the achievement of their own targets and objectives.</p>	<p>2.4.1 Develop an evidence base and briefings which highlight the various benefits of Affordable Warmth and distribute these to appropriate organisations.</p> <p>2.4.2 Using the evidence briefings, model the potential impact of Affordable Warmth on the targets of organisations in various sectors.</p> <p>2.4.3 Disseminate this information to all relevant regional organisations in an appropriate format.</p>	<p>Regional Public Health Group EMPHO Intelligence EM</p> <p>Regional Public Health Group</p> <p>East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p>
<p>2.5 Ensure that Local Area Agreements address the delivery of Affordable Warmth.</p>	<p>2.5.1 East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group to work with the Public Health Group Local Area Agreement Leads to develop a process for promoting Affordable Warmth within Local Area Agreements.</p>	<p>East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Regional Public Health Group</p>

Organisations and terms emboldened are defined in the Glossary

KEY AIM 3: Ensure the effective co-ordination and implementation of the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Action Plan

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
3.1 Formally establish the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group as the partnership responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Action Plan.	3.1.1 Identify regional organisations to participate in the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group, agree terms of reference for this group and agree monitoring and evaluation principles.	NEA Regional Co-ordinator East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
	3.1.2 Develop a programme of work to implement the Affordable Warmth Action Plan, which includes targets, resources, and timescales.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
	3.1.3 Hold a Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan launch event and ensure promotion of the Action Plan to local agencies.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
3.2 Ensure that the Affordable Warmth Action Plan is developed and implemented taking into account sustainable development principles.	3.2.1 Continue to use the East Midlands Integrated Toolkit (EMIT) to maximise the positive impacts of the Affordable Warmth Action Plan.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
3.3 Assess the need for an emphasis Affordable Warmth network.	3.3.1 Develop an emphasis on... Affordable Warmth web page.	Regional Public Health Group
3.4 Undertake regular surveys of activity in the East Midlands in order to identify examples of best practice in the delivery of Affordable Warmth .	3.4.1 Establish a regional advisory forum of frontline staff from all sectors to provide operational intelligence to the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
	3.4.2 Carry out a regular survey of policy leads from local authorities, health and voluntary sectors identifying barriers to the successful delivery of the Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group

KEY AIM 4: Ensure that the delivery of Affordable Warmth includes work to maximise the income of vulnerable householders and regenerate local economies

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
4.1 Ensure that vulnerable householders have opportunities to access welfare rights services.	4.1.1 Ensure that agencies providing benefit advice are aware of energy efficiency grant entitlement and that eligible clients are referred for assistance.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
	4.1.2 Encourage health staff to undertake welfare benefit checks at GP surgeries and during home visits.	Strategic Health Authorities Benefit Advice Teams
	4.1.3 Promote the National Heart Forum's Fuel Poverty Toolkit in order to encourage Primary Care Trusts to ensure that access to welfare and housing advice is incorporated into health service planning.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Strategic Health Authorities
4.2 Ensure that advice on appropriate and advantageous tariffs is available to fuel poor and other vulnerable households.	4.2.1 Energy Efficiency Advice Centres and energywatch to promote the cost savings that can be achieved by switching energy supplier.	Energy Efficiency Advice Centres energywatch
4.3 Address economic regeneration, skills gaps and creation of employment opportunities through facilitation of training in installation of energy efficiency improvement measures.	4.3.1 Work with the Sector Skills Council Development Agency to identify responsibility for training in energy efficiency installation skills.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
4.4 Maximise the income of vulnerable householders.	4.4.1 Equip local people in disadvantaged areas with the skills and knowledge that will enable them to maximise the employment and economic benefits from investment and economic activity within and close to their communities.	Emda Learning and Skills Council Job Centre Plus Energy Saving Partnerships (ESPs) Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs)

Organisations and terms emboldened are defined in the Glossary

KEY AIM 5: Support and influence relevant regional and local housing organisations in their work to deliver affordably warm homes.

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
5.1 Ensure that the Regional Housing Board sets overall policy objectives, which prioritise Affordable Warmth in public and private sector housing strategies.	<p>5.1.1 Ensure Regional Housing Strategy Review in 2007 includes policy objectives on Affordable Warmth and an encouragement to all housing agencies and local authorities to develop Affordable Warmth strategies.</p> <p>5.1.2 Ensure that the Regional Housing Board's investment strategy continues to include Affordable Warmth criteria.</p>	Regional Housing Board
5.2 As part of achieving the 'Fit for Purpose' standard housing strategies, local authorities are supported in ensuring the provision of affordable warmth.	5.2.1 Encourage local authorities to consider Affordable Warmth within their stock surveys and their needs analyses to ensure housing strategies are 'fit for purpose'.	GOEM Affordable Warmth Steering Group East Midlands HECA Forum
5.3 Encourage local authorities and other housing providers in the East Midlands to exceed the current thermal comfort requirements of the Decent Homes Standard in both social and private sectors.	<p>5.3.1 Lobby for higher requirements in the thermal comfort criterion of the Decent Homes Standard.</p> <p>5.3.2 Promote the use of the Guidance Note, issued to local authorities by the Regional Housing Board, which asks local authorities to address Affordable Warmth as part of their bids for funding to deliver Decent Homes for vulnerable people in the private sector.</p> <p>5.3.3 Launch a regional campaign to encourage take up of energy efficiency grants and measures in private sector housing.</p> <p>5.3.4 Identify examples of good practice in delivering Decent Homes and use these to inform the 2007 review of the Regional Housing Strategy.</p> <p>5.3.5 Housing Corporation to pilot a Building Research Establishment toolkit for existing stock based on Ecohomes methodology.</p>	<p>East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group East Midlands HECA Forum NEA</p> <p>Regional Housing Board</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Advice Centres Warm Front East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p> <p>GOEM</p> <p>Housing Corporation</p>

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
	5.3.6 Promote the work being done by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to improve local authorities' energy efficiency specifications for stock improvement.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group
5.4 Enable and support all local authorities and housing agencies in the East Midlands to develop Affordable Warmth strategies that target the most vulnerable groups and which integrate with the East Midlands Affordable Warmth Action Plan.	5.4.1 Encourage all local authorities and housing associations to develop Affordable Warmth strategies using the established NEA inclusive strategy development model. 5.4.2 Ensure promotion and dissemination of good practice on developing and implementing Affordable Warmth strategies. 5.4.3 Encourage all local landlord forums to join the East Midlands Tenant Participation Forum.	NEA Housing Corporation NEA East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Regional Housing Board
5.5 Promote the establishment of sub-regional Warm Zones in order to provide a comprehensive approach to tackling fuel poverty in the region.	5.5.1 East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group to liaise with Warm Zones Ltd to promote the Warm Zones model within the East Midlands.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group Warm Zones Ltd

Organisations and terms emboldened are defined in the Glossary

OBJECTIVE	TASK	PARTNERS
6.3 Develop a working knowledge of the extent of rural fuel poverty in the East Midlands.	6.3.1 Commission research to assess the extent of rural fuel poverty in the region.	East Midlands Affordable Warmth Steering Group East Midlands Public Health Group GOEM Rural Affairs Team NEA
6.4 Support the development of Affordable Warmth services that reflect the particular needs of isolated rural communities.	6.4.1 Commission a Guidance Note and/or organise awareness raising events for local authorities and other partners to highlight the particular issues preventing rural communities from accessing Affordable Warmth .	GOEM Rural Affairs Team NEA

Organisations and terms emboldened are defined in the Glossary

GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Affordable Warmth	The ability to achieve temperatures in the home that will ensure health and comfort for expenditure of no more than 10% of household income.
Decent Homes Standard	The Government defines a Decent Home as one that satisfies a number of criteria including the specification that it should provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.
East Midlands Integrated Toolkit (EMIT)	The East Midlands Integrated Toolkit has been developed to assist decision makers, planners and developers throughout the region to evaluate the impacts of their plans, policies and projects on the region's sustainable development objectives.
Emda	East Midlands Development Agency
emphasis	emphasis is the regional public health network for practitioners from local government, the voluntary sector and the health sector who have an interest in public health in the region. Within emphasis, a series of 'emphasis on' key topic area sub-networks have been established. It is proposed that one of these be developed on affordable warmth so that people with an interest can come together to share information.
EMPHO	East Midlands Public Health Observatory
EMRA	East Midlands Regional Assembly
EMRLGA	The East Midlands Regional Local Government Association. The association is the principal provider of support, representation, advice and training for its 46 local authority members. EMRLGA offers member authorities wide ranging support, research and consultancy services.
ENGAGE	Engage East Midlands works to promote stronger voluntary sector participation in policy development and partnerships
Energy Efficiency Advice Centres (EEACs)	A network of centres, managed by the Energy Saving Trust, which give free, impartial advice on energy efficiency to members of the public.

TERM

DEFINITION

energywatch	Consumer watchdog representing the interests of domestic gas and electricity consumers.
Fuel Poverty	A fuel-poor household is one that cannot afford to keep adequately warm at reasonable cost. The most widely accepted definition of a fuel-poor household is one that needs to spend more than 10% of its income on all fuel use in order to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth. This is generally defined as 21°C in the living room and 18°C in other occupied rooms - temperatures recommended by the World Health Organisation.
GOEM	Government Office for the East Midlands
HECA	Home Energy Conservation Act
Intelligence East Midlands	Regional Observatory for the East Midlands
Local Area Agreement (LAAs)	LAAs are made between central and local government in a local area. Their aim is to achieve local solutions that meet local needs whilst also contributing to national priorities and the achievement of standards set by central government.
Local Delivery Plans	A Primary Care Trust plan outlining how it is proposed to meet specific targets.
NEA	National Energy Action (Fuel poverty charity)
PCT	Primary Care Trusts - provide services in the community and work to get the best for their local communities. Currently cover roughly the same area as the district and borough councils. They receive the health funds for their population and are responsible for spending on all health services
Regional Housing Board's investment strategy	<i>'Investment in Housing in the East Midlands 2006-08'</i> , the Regional Housing Board's Investment Strategy, has two functions. Firstly, together with the Regional Housing Strategy, it presents recommendations to Ministers regarding the region's proposed use of the 2006-08 Single Capital Pot. Secondly, it provides guidance to Local Authorities, Housing Associations and eligible non-registered bodies regarding proposed funding priorities. The total available to the East Midlands Single Capital Pot is £268.1m.

TERM

DEFINITION

SAP	Standard Assessment Procedure - the Government's methodology for Energy Ratings of Dwellings
SHA	Strategic Health Authority -responsible for developing strategies for the local health services and ensuring high-quality performance. They manage the NHS locally and are a key link between the Department of Health and the NHS. They will also ensure that national priorities (such as programmes for improving cancer services) are integrated into local plans. Currently two SHAs within the East Midlands Trent covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire and LNR covering leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland.
Single Assessment Process	A process which aims to make sure older people's care needs are assessed thoroughly and accurately, but without procedures being needlessly duplicated by different agencies.
VOICE	Voice East Midlands works to enable the East Midlands Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Voluntary and Community Sector to influence the regional agenda for the benefit of BME organisations and communities.
Warm Front	The Government's main grant-funded programme for tackling fuel poverty in England. A grant of £2,700 (or £4,000 if oil central heating has been recommended) can provide a package of insulation and heating measures for households in receipt of a means-tested or disability-related benefit. The programme is restricted to private sector housing.
Warm Zones Ltd	Warm Zones Ltd provides guidance and other assistance to develop area-based programmes delivering effective, targeted help to maximise household income, implement energy efficiency improvements and improve the physical and psychological health of local households.

