

NEA YORKSHIRE & HUMBER FUEL POVERTY FORUM

Friday 11 January 2013

NEA Policy Update

- 24,000 excess winter deaths in England & Wales in 2011/12 – higher in females
- Between 2010/11 and 2011/12 male excess winter deaths decreased from 11,270 to 10,700 and female deaths from 14,810 to 13,300.
- The majority occurred among those age 75 and over, there were 19,500 excess winter deaths in this age group in 2011/12 compared with 4,500 in the under 75s.
- The excess winter deaths was highest in London in 2011/12. So far this winter mortality rates are lower than the same time last winter.

COMPANIES LISTED AS DOMESTIC ASSESSORS

A Guardian survey for that 24 companies were listed as assessors, and of the 18 that were contactable, 5 will charge between £95 and £150 for an upfrony assessment fee. 11 were not able to answer the question, one (Mark Group) plans to offer the assessment free and one company was listed mistakenly on the Government's website.

Two recent reports suggest the cost of ECO to the Government (the bill payer) will be higher than expected.

- Energy UK say £94 p/a on the bills rather than £53
- IPPR say poor targeting is a big factor and more area based approaches would help.

Retail Market Review: Ofgem's consultation on "legislating so that energy companies have to give the lowest possible tariff for example offer a 'green tariff'".

Main proposals

- 4 core tariffs per fuel.
- The core tariffs must include one standard variable tariff and one fixed rate tariff.
- The form of the other two tariffs are at the discretion of the energy suppliers but may, for example, include a green tariff.
- Suppliers will offer a single price for each tariff although discounts will be permitted based on dual-fuel arrangements or lower costs payment arrangements
- Encouraging collective switching.

The energy and climate change committee has announced an enquiry into domestic energy prices, energy supplier profits and fuel poverty

- Written evidence is to be submitted by February 14th 2013
- Seems like useful questions to ask, except 1
- Think we know anecdotally – facts and figures useful, but perhaps skirts the issue of prices and profits though.

FPAG 10th Annual report – www.decc.gov.uk

- ‘Cold damp, thermally inefficient houses which people cannot afford to heat sufficiently to protect their health are a peculiarly a British Public Health Scandal’.
- Age UK has calculated that the estimated costs to the NHS in England arising just from cold homes is around £1.36 billion per year.

WARM HOMES CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

NEA can help

- Promote your event through their website
- With materials and briefings
- Provide advice on getting ministerial attendance.

Publications for reference

- Age UK, the cost of cold: why we need to protect the the health of older people in winter, 2012
- IPPR Energy Efficiency, who pays and who benefits? 2012
- EC JoInt Research Centre, heating and cooling: best available technologies in Europe, 2012
- Institute for sustainability, Retrofit Insights, 2012.

Appendices

Power Point Presentation **Spread the Warmth** Protect your health – keep warm in Winter. Ideal for talks to older people.

