



**Safe, Warm Homes Working Group Meeting
15 September 2016**

Attendees:

Maria Wardrobe.	National Energy Action – Chair
Graham Breeze	Dept for Work & Pensions
Dave Pryce	Dept for Work & Pensions & AAA Secretariat
Amie Harding	British Gas
Moira Findlay	East Midlands Later Life Forum
John Welham	Future Years – Forum for Yorks and Humber
Pam Wynne	Dept. Energy and Climate Change
Danni Crosland	National Energy Action
Ross Thompson	Public Health England
Rebecca Hams	Public Health England
Francis Philippa	Foundations Independent Living Trust

Apologies:

Russell Taylor	Dept for Work & Pensions
Angie Bone	Public Health England
Andy Chaplin	Foundations Independent Living Trust
Robert Jervis-Gibbons	Electrical Safety First
Will Mitchell	Electrical Safety First
Jane Minter	Care & Repair England

1. Welcome & introduction

Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting and after brief introductions noted apologies for absence. Maria provided a brief update of the changes that had occurred since the February meeting and these included:

Warm Home Discount Scheme and Energy Company Obligation consultation exercises

CMA – making energy market work for all consumers

Interest was also expressed in the Fuel Poverty Committee. Further details of Committee membership and work can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-fuel-poverty>

2. Alliance Update

Graham provided a quick update.

The Alliance is going from strength to strength, (917 Member organisations and 8,000 twitter followers.)

Weekly update continues to be a success

Graham highlighted the success of a recent twitter chat and PHE were keen to look into the possibility of doing something similar around keep warm, keep well this winter.

AAA publish a summary of the Twitter Chat conversations as a blog and are keen to encourage others to blog on matters of interest.

Some energy companies now offering warm home discount on a first come first served basis. This needs to be highlighted in the weekly newsletter. Amie Harding offered a contribution.

Graham also touched on the future operating model and that the PDB are looking at alternative models. There had been a good response to the write around earlier this year but the results were inconclusive. PDB keen for the Working Group to work together and take initiatives forward. DWP will continue to support the Alliance and those working groups where there is a Policy interest – the Safe, Warm Homes WG is one of these.

Some concerns raised around expenses and the premium prices that have to be paid to attend meetings in London. A suggested solution was the use of Video Conferencing.

AP – DWP to highlight in newsletter that some energy companies now offering warm home discount on a first come first served basis. Link to warm home discount page on Gov.uk below:

<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

AP – All members to consider future operating model and whether there are any initiatives the Group could develop collectively.

AP – All members to explore options of meetings outside of London.

Smart Energy GB in Communities

Danni provided a very informative session on the move towards Smart Meters which generated a great deal of discussion. Slides + leaflet attached.

Update from Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Pam provided an update on the machinery of Government changes, the main one being the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and BIS merging to become BEIS.

Pam did however stress that the key issues that belonged to DECC have transferred to the new department.

Baroness Neville Rolfe the Minister of State for Energy is responsible for the fuel poverty portfolio.

Other developments since the last meeting include:

- Government commitment to continue with warm home discount scheme and energy company obligation;
- Bonfield review – report due to be published shortly;
- Fuel Poverty Committee looking at impact on health of cold damp homes;

Update from members

PHE informed the group that their Cold Weather Plan was due to be published on 19 September and their Keep Warm Keep Well booklet in mid October.

It was suggested that a reference to Smart Meters could be added to the Keep Warm Keep Well booklet.

PHE also working on an indoor overheating checklist.

Moira raised the issue of older people needing extra care and the prohibitive costs associated with this and the complexities of meeting those costs while homes were waiting to be sold.

Dave highlighted that the All Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group are holding an event in the House of Commons on 12 October from 4 to 6pm. The event will focus on reviewing the recommendations from the Groups January 2015 report – *Carbon Monoxide: From Awareness to Action*

If anyone is interested further details can be found at:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/appcog-panel-discussion-carbon-monoxide-detection-technology-tickets-27725244954?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTA3Mzg3MTUvcnVzc2VsbC50YXlsb3JAZHdwLmdzaS5nb3YudWsvMA%3D%3D&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&ref=enivtefor001&utm_term=attend

Date of next meeting – Dave to liaise with Maria. February 2017 was suggested.



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