



Campaigning for Warm Homes

VIVA

Volunteering: Independence and Vitality in Action

Neighbourhood Energy Champions

NEA, the national energy action charity is working with **Comic Relief** and **Age UK** to help vulnerable householders achieve affordable warmth.

The Comic Relief project aims to provide 40 volunteer **Neighbourhood Energy Champions** across the Yorkshire & Humber with the opportunity to bring about change in their communities by cascading and sharing information and knowledge on affordable warmth, vital in meeting older people's needs. By raising awareness of the health effects of cold damp homes on older people, ensuring householders are on the cheapest energy tariff, and promoting local affordable warmth services, Neighbourhood Energy Champions can help to ensure that friends, family and neighbours can better understand how to live in warm and healthy homes that they can afford to heat.

Evidence shows that some older people lack access to advice and information to help them make their homes more energy efficient and capable of achieving appropriate temperatures for health and comfort, particularly in rural areas.

Neighbourhood Energy Champions are likely to be people involved with local groups and networks who can pass on information or signpost to where support can be found as part of their usual community activities.

What can Neighbourhood Energy Champions expect?

Neighbourhood Energy Champions will receive energy awareness/affordable warmth training on the causes, consequences and solutions to people living in cold homes. It is expected that the workshops will take place in August or September 2012. **Neighbourhood Energy Champions** will also have the opportunity to put their own ideas on how to tackle the issue into action, and receive support and mentoring from NEA's Project Development Co-ordinators and Age UK staff. Activities can involve: supporting community events; providing advice to other older people to ensure they keep warm in winter (especially for health benefits); informing where to go for advice and grants; how to reduce fuel bills and how to deal with energy companies.

How do I become a Neighbourhood Energy Champion?

Contact either of the following people:

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For those living in North Yorkshire please contact:

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