

Minutes of the Affordable Warmth Sub-Committee
Held at the Civic Hall, Uppermill on **Wednesday 24th November 2010**

- There were present** Cllr. Mr. Royce Franklin – Chairman
Angela Carr (Oldham Council)
Julie Holt (NHS Oldham)
Lisa MacDonald (Saddleworth & Lees District Manager)
Nicola Shore (Oldham Council / Age Concern)
Gillian Clark (Delph Community Association).
- 31. Apologies** - Kath Edwards (Saddleworth PPG) & Laura Williams (AWARM)
- 32. NHS Oldham** – GPs have different I.T. systems, looking at possible changes to accommodate Affordable Warmth referrals. Salford have managed to generate a large number of referrals. 17 GP surgeries in Oldham have signed up for AWARM training. Looking at increasing awareness with GPs, information has been circulated with the Flu campaign. Training is also being given to Firemen via a DVD.
- 33. Affordable Warmth Strategy** – The Strategy was approved in September and is available on the Oldham Council web-site. A mail-shot has been sent to residents publicising the Warm Front scheme, the scheme will continue next year but with reduced funding. Oldham had the second highest number of AWARM referrals in Greater Manchester in the second quarter. ERDF and British Gas funding has been secured to convert the district heating system to biomass. Funding has also been secured to improve heating systems at Busk and Waterhead. The Age Concern Electric Blanket Testing took place in November, there was no funding available to provide free replacement blankets, vouchers were provided to cover 50% of the cost of a new blanket. Oldham is part of Greater Manchester's Low Carbon Economic Area, need to fill 75% of all remaining lofts and cavities by 2013 (approx 30,000 properties in Oldham). The Stay Warm this Winter campaign was launched in September, free loft and cavity wall insulation for people over 70, or in receipt of certain benefits, or with certain health issues. All other Oldham residents can receive highly subsidised insulation at only £95 each for loft or cavity wall insulation, the scheme attracts a considerable amount of utility funding. Changes are being made following the Government Spending Review, these include a 70% reduction in the Warm Front funding, Green Deal, where householders can have capital work done with no upfront payment, the cost is paid back via utility bills over 10 years with no interest. Loft and Cavity Wall insulation won't be subsidised under this scheme. Changes to various tariffs are being considered. The definition of Fuel Poverty is also being reviewed.
- 34. Patient Participation Group** – the PPG are giving more publicity for AWARM
- 35. District Partnership** – it was agreed that the minutes of the sub-committee will be presented to the Health and Well-being group.
- 36. Date of the next meeting** - Wednesday 26th January 2011 at 10 a.m.