

Matters Arising from 27th March 2015

Heatsavers - Shropshire Evaluation

Contact Andy Begley, Head of Adult Social Care Operations tel 01743 252421

Additional documents:

8 Appendix report on Heatsavers as a preventative measure in Shropshire

Minutes:

A report on the Heatsavers Research Project was introduced and amplified by the Project Lead Officer - copy attached to the signed minutes. In doing so, the links between poor housing and poor health and how Heatsavers helped people claim the correct benefits were highlighted.

In relation to a question about bulk buying of oil for areas of the county where mains gas did not exist, it was explained that most Parish Councils ran such schemes. Mrs Shingleton said that the Shropshire Association of Local Councils would be best placed to conduct a survey across the county if required. The Chair welcomed this and thanked Mrs Shingleton for her suggestion.

It was agreed that the Heatsavers work was helpful as a needs assessment and that it should sit within the Board's preventive agenda, coming within the Better Care Fund work, which was logical. The cross-cutting nature of the problem was noted too.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the content of the Heatsavers report be noted.*
- b) That the Heatsavers Scheme should form part of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Prevention Strategy.*
- c) That the Heatsavers Scheme which links into Health and Wellbeing work, would be taken forward by the Health and Wellbeing Delivery Group*
- d) That a progress report be made back to the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting with regard to a timeframe on implementing the above.*
- e) That a bulk buying fuel survey be developed by Housing for distribution by Shropshire Association of Local Councils.*

HeatSavers Update October HWBB 2015

Moving forward HeatSavers continues to attract funding for the coming winter, including match-funding from WarmZones, a community interest company offering assistance to low income vulnerable households with energy efficiency measures and effective heating

Following an additional £20,000 contribution to Heatsavers from Public Health, WarmZones have committed to match funding of £30,000 for Heatsaver cases in areas of Shropshire covered by the Carbon Saving Community Obligation (CSCO), aimed at tackling affordable warmth and carbon saving for the most vulnerable households and those in the most deprived areas. This equates to about 50% of prospective referrals to Heatsavers. The WarmZones partner arrangement provides a full energy assessment of the property, free Energy Performance Certification (EPC), approved contractors to PAC2030 standard, and 50% funding for provision of effective heating systems. Where there is insufficient loft insulation or cavity wall insulation in a property they will install at no cost to the householder or Shropshire Council.

Where referrals to HeatSavers do not qualify for WarmZones (i.e. not in a CSCO area of Shropshire), they will be funded through the HeatSavers Emergency Heating Grant with match-funding from the Local Support and Prevention Fund, and npower Health Through Warmth as per previous cases.

Bulk Buying Fuel Scheme

Shropshire RCC operates a Community Fuel Buying Scheme

At the moment the scheme has members all over Shropshire. The main gap is the Clun area where a large locally organised oil scheme already operates.

The scheme is promoted through the following:

- Local volunteer coordinators
- Parish and local Newsletters
- Press Articles
- Twitter etc. @fuelbuying
- Local events

The areas below have the highest number of members:-

Billingsley
Alveley
Bridgnorth
Cleobury Mortimer
Church Stretton
Cound
Munslow
Knowbury
Whitchurch
Ellesmere
Oswestry Rural
Market Drayton

Currently in talks with a forest manager to add wood fuel/logs to the scheme.

The scheme offers a Save and Pay scheme in association with Just Credit Union for those struggling financially. Please see leaflet attached.

Information above supplied by Elizabeth Thain, Membership Development Officer- Fuel Buying Scheme, 01743 342 167. (29/9/15)

People can join online:

<http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/services/individuals/oil-buying-scheme/>

From the leaflet

Joining together with neighbours to buy heating oil makes sense for everyone. Customers get a better price, oil companies can organise deliveries more efficiently, and fewer tanker journeys reduces the negative environmental impact.

Shropshire RCC organises the largest bulk oil buying scheme in Shropshire and we have helped local people save many thousands of pounds since we started in September 2011. We have over 700 members all over the county

Oil

Once a month we collate oil orders from right across Shropshire on a specified date.

- We contact the oil companies to ask for their best price for a bulk order (typically 100,000 litres a month).
- We tell you the price and the expected date of delivery.
- You pay the supplier direct for the oil they deliver.

Oil Order Deadlines 2015 are by 12 Noon on the following dates:

Tuesday 20th October

Tuesday 24th November

LPG

We can now offer our members exclusive access to low LPG rates.

Please contact us on 01743 342167 to find out if you can switch.

To take advantage of our buying power you have to be a member. Annual Membership fees help to cover our admin costs and are kept as low as possible. You can order as many times as you wish during your membership year.

Current membership fees are:

- £24 inc VAT Domestic annual membership
- £36 inc VAT Community Building annual membership
- £120 inc VAT Business annual membership