

GUIDANCE NOTES ON APPLYING TO THE SURVIVING WINTER CAMPAIGN FUND

Fuel Poverty Awareness Workshops for Older and Vulnerable People

The Community Foundation is working with National Energy Action (NEA) to deliver a range of half day workshops to community groups and their service users to raise awareness of the problem of fuel poverty and its solutions, tailored and delivered specifically to the target group. The workshops can be organised and delivered as standalone events or can be added to existing community activities where a large number of the target audience already attend, such as a luncheon club, bingo session etc.

The half day workshops will be developed for the specific group and will contain information on understanding their fuel bills, budgeting for fuel, practical energy efficiency tips, where to go for help if they have fallen into arrears or if they need help to improve the energy efficiency of their home. The practical sessions will assist them to improve their own situation and also to assist a friend or neighbour. NEA will develop bespoke advice leaflets for each group.

Fuel Poverty Training for Staff/Professionals/Volunteers of Community Groups

NEA will also deliver half day formalised training sessions to professionals which will enable them to give specific advice and guidance to their service users. The content of the course will be agreed in consultation with each community group but are likely to include the causes and solutions to fuel poverty, how to identify someone who has difficulties heating their home and how to help someone who has difficulties heating their home. Places are limited to 2 people per organisation in the first instance but you can register for more as there may be additional places available. The total number of people per session will be 15 therefore staff from a number of similar organisations will be brought together at a venue which could be NEA head office in Newcastle.

Those groups which successfully apply to host awareness raising workshops and training sessions will be contacted directly by NEA to arrange the details. The grants to run these sessions will be paid directly to NEA by the Community Foundation and not to the applicant.

Hardship Grants

There will be an element of funding available for hardship grants. This will be open to those organisations whose service users **and** staff/professionals/volunteers have successfully completed workshops and training sessions and will be administered by the organisation directly to service users. Details of how each grant is spent will be required through a monitoring and feedback report to be completed and returned within 6 months of the award. The amounts will be confirmed as the campaign

progresses but are likely to be between £200 and £500 per organisation. The hardship grants are intended to be used to help those service users most in need and therefore the training to staff must have taken place before a grant is awarded. The items that the hardship grant can contribute to are –

- Draught excluders
- Reflective radiator panels
- Hot water tank jacket
- Energy monitor (to monitor electrical items)
- Coalmiser (to slow the rate that coal burns in a fire)
- Secondary glazing
- Energy efficient kettle
- Fridge freezer
- Cooker
- Carpets (in exceptional cases)

About National Energy Action

National Energy Action (NEA) is the UK's leading national fuel poverty charity. It has helped thousands of vulnerable households directly, and millions indirectly, to escape from fuel poverty. NEA celebrates 30 years of assisting fuel poor households during 2011. It is recognised by Government, industry, the media and local communities as the leading expert on fuel poverty. NEA undertakes a range of activities including campaigning; practical research into new solutions to fuel poverty and developing qualifications to improve the quality of energy advice.

NEA recognises that the most successful way of reaching and helping vulnerable households is to work with trusted community groups that have regular contact with vulnerable people. By working with the Community Foundation and developing local projects in this way, NEA is able to reach many more fuel poor households than the charity would have been able to otherwise.



Campaigning for Warm Homes