

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	Friday 16th November 2012.
TITLE:	Local Affordable Warmth Action Group Update 2012
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix 1 Terms of Reference</p> <p>Appendix 2 Action Plan</p>	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Affordable Warmth is a key determinate for wellbeing and is particularly significant for vulnerable low income households. The inability to benefit from affordable warmth can be described as fuel poverty and this affects 17% of B&NES residents (House Condition Survey 2011).
- 1.2 The purpose of the Local Affordable Warmth Action Group (LAWAG) is to coordinate activities to tackle excess winter mortality, fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth. It comprises representatives from across the community, voluntary and statutory sector with an interest in solutions to these issues. The terms of reference for the group are given at Appendix 1.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note and comment on the report.
- 2.2 Note and comment on the action plan at Appendix 2.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, the Council's approach to Green Deal will impact on take up of affordable warmth schemes and there are financial considerations associated with this and the wider energy efficiency retro fit opportunities it presents.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 Housing Services plan and promote home energy efficiency measures to meet the Council's statutory responsibility under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1996 (HECA) and have done so since the introduction of this legislation. The focus of this work has been affordable warmth for vulnerable groups in Bath and North East Somerset.
- 4.2 As part of this work the service represented the Council on a regional affordable warmth action group for a number of years to share and identify good practice on promoting home energy efficiency measures. More recently this group concluded that local authority level groups would be a more effective way to promote and organise affordable warmth initiatives.
- 4.3 In 2009 the local authority health profile identified Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) as being an outlier for excess winter deaths. The excess winter mortality index (EWMI) for 2004-07, published in 2009 was 21.4 compared to an English average of 17.0. In 2010 the profile revealed that B&NES had the worst levels of excess winter mortality in England, for the period of 2005-08, with a EWMI of 26.3, compared to England's value of 15.6. The EWMI rose to 30.1 in the rolling three year average published this year (2006-09), but is no longer the highest in England.

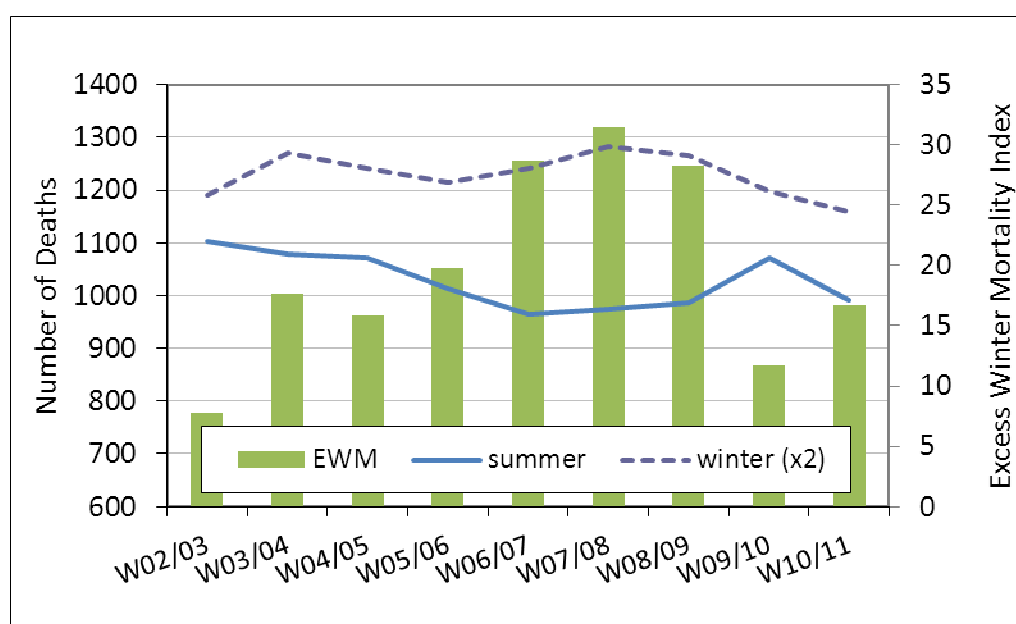
Figure 1 below compares the annual levels of winter deaths, summer deaths and excess winter mortality index for each year from the winter of 2002/03 to the winter of 2010/11. The graph shows the fluctuation in the levels of winter deaths.

The high EWMI for B&NES stimulated a greater interest in the promotion of energy efficiency and affordable warmth and assisted in the formation of a Local Affordable Warmth Action Group (LAWAG). Following an approach by Housing Services, B&NES Public Health agreed to chair the group and work began on a series of projects aimed at promoting affordable warmth for those most at risk of dying during the winter months.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework published in January this year features the following 2 overarching outcomes that set the overall vision for the whole public health system:

- increased healthy life expectancy, i.e. taking account of the health quality as well as the length of life; and
- reduced differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities (through greater improvements in more disadvantaged communities).

Figure 1 Excess Winter Mortality, Deaths in summer and Deaths in winter by year of winter (2002-2011)



Source: Public Health Mortality File

Two Public Health Indicators, namely Fuel Poverty and Excess Winter Deaths are directly relevant to the work of the LAWAG. Progress against these outcome indicators will be monitored by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.4 The LAWAG Action Plan to improve home energy efficiency for vulnerable households is shown at Appendix 1. The key theme of the actions is to promote the B&NES Home Energy Efficiency Advice Line which is commissioned by Housing Services and holds details of local and national energy efficiency and heating schemes.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 An EqIA has not been completed for this report because there are no policy recommendations arising from this update report. The Warm Streets Energy Efficiency Programme referred to in the action plan has been considered as part of the EqIA completed for the Home Health and Safety Policy.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Staff; Other B&NES Services; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies.

7.2 The action plan discussed at the LAWAG meetings and developed through discussion with Housing, Public Health and Sustainability colleagues.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Corporate; Health & Safety;

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Chris Mordaunt (Housing Services) 01225 396282 Sarah Scott (Public Health) 01225 831418
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Appendix 1

Affordable Warmth Action Group – Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

This group will coordinate activities to tackle excess winter mortality, fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth.

2. Objectives

- To oversee the refresh of the affordable warmth action plan
- To implement the action plan
- To monitor progress against the action plan

3. Membership

The group will comprise representatives from organisations with an interest in the solutions to relieve fuel poverty, reducing excess winter mortality and the promotion of affordable warmth. The group will be facilitated by the Local Authority and Health Services Partnership.

4. Governance

The group will be accountable to the Bath and North East Somerset Health and Well-being Board.

5. Frequency of meetings

The meetings will take place quarterly.

6. Review of terms of reference

These Terms of Reference shall be approved by the Affordable Warmth Action Group and will be reviewed annually.

Sarah Scott
23/05/2012

Appendix 2

Local Affordable Warmth Group Action Plan 2012

	Action	Progress at October 2012	Key dates
1.	Warm Streets Loft and Cavity Wall insulation programme	The Warm Streets programme has now ended. This will be replaced by the B&NES Green Deal/ECO offer. ECO Starter project planned for Southdown and Twerton	February 2012
2.	Warm Streets Free for All scheme	Successful run on several occasions including during the run down of Warm Streets	None – review under Green deal
3.	Heatseekers – thermal imaging trial	Opt out scheme in 3 B&NES wards until September 2012	None – review under green deal
4.	Assessment of individual household affordable warmth needs	Existing address level information being collated by Housing Services. Use anticipated for HECA reporting	31 st March 2013
5.	Awareness raising for visiting Council, Social Care and Health Staff	20 minute briefing package on Cold homes and Falls hazards being developed by Housing and Public Protection Services. To be offered for team meetings.	5 th December 2012 is first trial session
6.	GP / Health Worker Referral Scheme	Referral routes to be offered as part of 5 above	2013
7.	Pharmacy Campaign	Home Energy Advice line promoted last winter and to continue this season	November 2012
8.	Flu jab campaign	Home Energy Advice line promoted last September and repeated this year	September 2012
9.	Promotion of affordable warmth service to BME groups	Housing Services visits to Imam and Policy Community Fair in 2012	Review for 2013
10.	Fire service promotion of Home Energy Advice Line	Energy saving info provided with Christmas cards during Home Fire Safety visits last year	December 2012