

**Presentation on the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project and the “Green Deal:”
(by Tom Barlow, Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project Officer)**

Information

1. The Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project came into being as a result of the findings and recommendations from a Scrutiny Report on Fuel Poverty in Cumbria on behalf of the Cumbria Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee.
2. Tom Barlow was appointed as Project Officer with the remit of promoting measures to tackle fuel poverty, forming partnerships, accessing funding for installing insulation and producing a Fuel Poverty Strategic Action Plan across Cumbria.
3. The Energy Bill introduced to Parliament on 8 December 2010 includes provision for the new “Green Deal.” This aims to improve the energy efficiency of buildings by establishing a framework to enable private sector providers to offer consumers energy efficiency improvements to their homes, community spaces and businesses at no upfront cost.
4. The “deal” is that the cost (including the providers’ return on their investment) is recovered through a charge in instalments on the energy bill. It is anticipated that the “Green Deal” will go live in Autumn 2012.
5. In Copeland, energy efficiency levels are broadly comparable to the national average. However, around 20% of dwellings have a SAP rating of 40 or below (mainly built before 1919). Almost 15% fail the energy efficiency requirements of the Decent Homes Standard and an estimated 20% of households experience fuel poverty (this is shown as 18.5% in the stock condition survey of 2007 but we have subsequently revised it in light of further research in 2009).
6. Copeland dwellings exhibiting category 1 hazards (the most serious) under the Housing Health & Safety Rating System are over-represented in terms of excess cold, most significantly in the owner occupied sector in dwellings built before 1919. Failure rates are higher in the Distington, Frizington, Egremont and West Lakes areas.
7. Given the importance to our communities of tackling fuel poverty and improving stock condition (most of the homes people will occupy in 2050 have already been built), the forthcoming Copeland Housing Strategy will address home energy efficiency with the resources that we are able to use.

Report Authors: Laurie Priebe & Rachel Osborn